

# THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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## Ecclesiastical Affairs.

### THE RUBICON PASSED.

AFTER several months of thought, labour, anxiety, and doubt, we are at length able to congratulate our readers upon a decision having been arrived at to summon an anti-state-church convention. Our advertising columns record the resolutions passed at a meeting held at Leicester, on Thursday Dec. 6, a brief account of which we have inserted below. To these we now direct the attention of earnest-hearted nonconformists, and proceed, without further preface, to make a few passing remarks thereupon.

We must be allowed, then, to express our deep satisfaction, that the idea which we deliberately and solemnly committed to the public mind some time back, which we have ever since watched and watered with unremitting care, which, from the first, has been exposed to many and varied unpropitious influences, and the vitality of which we were compelled, at times, to suspect, if not to doubt, has germinated. At present it may be but a small thing, but it is a living thing. It will grow. Its structural organisation will expand, and draw whatever sustenance the soil of dissent can minister to it. If the seasons are not unkindly, it will put forth beauteous and fragrant blossoms, and in its appointed time will produce, in greater or less abundance, seed-bearing fruit. It is not now a floating, evanescent notion, but a living, tangible substance. It is not a mere conception, but a born reality. Neglect may, indeed, stifle it. Ignorance may poison it. Malice may succeed in putting it to death. But, there it is, at present, a breathing embodiment of thought, which proper aliment will nourish, and watchful care may nurse into vigour—possessing all the rudiments of manhood, as yet undeveloped and unexercised. It is now, as every infant is, a tissue of possibilities, the reach and bearing of which it is vain to predict. None can foresee the influence which the due unfolding of these may have upon this world's destiny. Meanwhile, to look upon the youngling, to take it in our arms, and fervently to invoke Heaven's blessing upon it, must needs be to us matter for sober and profound joy, for lively and full-toned thankfulness.

The first resolution, it will be observed, gives an unequivocal pledge that a convention shall be summoned. It may be useful, therefore, to re-state, in explicit terms, the object contemplated in this important movement. Ultimately it is the separation of church and state—but its immediate purpose is the diffusion of a knowledge of sound principles, the awakening of right feeling, and the organisation of strength, amongst dissenters themselves. It is clear enough to every observer, that so long as the various nonconforming bodies remain in utter ignorance of their distinctive principles, unconscious of their responsibility, indifferent to their own degradation, and practically distrustful of the essential energy and sufficiency of God's truth to enlighten and renovate the population of these realms, the establishment may well smile in security at every effort which may be put forth for its extinction. Before the smallest impression can be made upon the citadel of spiritual error and despotism, a preparatory work of no trifling magnitude needs to be performed. An instrumentality must be constructed capable of hurling into the very heart of the compulsory system the shots and shells of truth. Dissenters must be everywhere cognisant of their duty, thoroughly trained to the sacred warfare, willing to contribute, to labour, to submit to sacrifice, to encounter danger, to unite in one compact and impenetrable phalanx, to be disciplined to prompt and cheerful obedience, and to put themselves under the guidance of some central staff of authority, possessing their confidence, and competent to regulate all their movements, ere they will be in a condition to break ground against a state church; and to this desirable end a convention is designed to be the first step. Thereat principles may be defined and fixed—the work to be done may be deliberately surveyed and resolved upon—the means to be employed may be selected and arranged—an executive and responsible power may be created—a machinery, constructed with special adaptation to move the dissenting world to its furthest extremities, and an impulse given to that machinery, such as may put and keep it in motion until circumstances shall

demand another, and a yet larger, convention. This is to be no flash in the pan—no demonstration of strength—no puerile attempt to strike terror into a formidable foe; but an earnest commencement of real and serious work—the solemn initiation into a new order of brotherhood, the bond of whose union shall be concern for the church's freedom, and the weapons of whose warfare shall be knowledge, sincerity, self-denial, and religion.

The second resolution passed at the meeting to which we have adverted invites the communication to the secretary of plans and suggestions as to the mode, time, and place, in which this representative assembly shall be convened. It will be remembered that we gave, in the *Nonconformist* of September 20, from the pen of a respected correspondent, an elaborate plan for constituting an anti-state-church convention. We expressly disclaimed at the time all intention of predetermining by such means so important a matter. We fear, however, that in some quarters our honest caveat was disregarded, if not disbelieved. That particular plan became identified in many minds with the whole project; and the difficulties which were seen to be in the way of the practical working of the former, became, in consequence, serious objections to the latter. The scruples of such will now, we trust, be removed. The public is invited to throw into one common stock its varied intelligence and experience; and, out of the materials thus furnished to their hand, the general provisional committee will construct a platform for future operations. Whilst the movement is intended to be a Christian one, it is not intended to make it sectarian. All, therefore, who religiously desire the end in view are afforded an opportunity of suggesting the best means to that end. We trust they will avail themselves of it, and will, without delay, communicate whatever they may deem worthy of attention to the provisional secretary.

We have before us the list of names of one hundred and twenty gentlemen, ministers and others, resident in different parts of England, in North and South Wales, in Scotland, and in Ireland, whom the meeting deemed eligible to constitute a general provisional committee for summoning, and making arrangements for the business of the convention. A copy of the resolutions will be sent to each of them, and their consent to stand respectfully solicited. When this list is thus rendered complete, the provisional committee will appoint a central executive committee, who will be charged with the duty of arranging the details of business, and who, of course, will be responsible to, and under the ultimate control of, the body appointing them. There will thus be in every important locality one or more individuals identified with the movement. Originating, as a scheme of this sort must, in some distinct place, it divests itself at once and for ever of its local character. All suspicion on this head, therefore, is proved to have been baseless.

Whatever plan may be ultimately adopted must, of necessity, provide for meeting the expense of a convention. We think the meeting at Leicester have done wisely, however, in soliciting donations immediately. In all parts of the country there are warm-hearted friends, whose position will preclude them from taking any active part in the proposed measure, but who, nevertheless, would rejoice to avail themselves of an opportunity of quietly promoting its success. Their contributions will be welcome. Promptly given they will be doubly valuable. We commend to such the example of the gentlemen who originated the movement. Like men in earnest, they did not separate before they had subscribed a handsome sum towards defraying immediate expenses.

We have done. The banner is now uplifted—the flag is unfurled, and waves in the pure breeze of heaven. Dissenters have long sighed and waited for a rallying point about which they might confidently muster their forces. They have one at last. Haste to it, then, descendants from an ancestry of which the world, in common with yourselves, may well be proud! Your own professions give you the word of command. Consistency prompts you to instant action. Regard for your own safety might avail to move you, even if nothing else will. The welfare of the church in all coming ages lays you under obligation to bestir yourselves, and the spiritual condition of millions pleads with you, trumpet-tongued, to come to the rescue. Rouse you, at length, from inglorious ease! Shake

off from you all traces of past slumber! Come in the majesty of your moral power to the first council of heroes! Away with every lurking suspicion, every latent feeling of distrust, every relic of personal or party dissatisfaction! The word is, "ONWARDS!" Let it be echoed from rank to rank, and with determined front, and unfaltering step, and invincible courage, let the order be obeyed!

## PROPOSED ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.

### MEETING AT LEICESTER.

A most important and deeply interesting meeting was held at Leicester, on Thursday, December 7th, at the Town hall library, to take some practical steps for summoning a convention, to seek a separation of church and state. The assembly was convened by circular, and consisted chiefly of dissenting ministers and gentlemen resident in the midland counties, with the exception of Dr Cox of Hackney, Dr T. Price, and Mr E. Miall, of London. In addition to the names above mentioned, we noticed, as present on the occasion, the following dissenting ministers:—Messrs J. P. Mursell, G. Legge, — Smedmore, — Green, Joseph Goadby, S. Wigg, T. Stevenson, — Bloodsworth, ministers at Leicester; W. Robinson, of Kettering; Sibree, of Coventry; Brown, of Northampton; Mays, of Wigatone; Hopwood, of Lutterworth; Miall, of Ullesthorpe; Bedford, of Narborough; Phillips, of Earl's Barton; Gilbert, of Nottingham; Edwards, of Nottingham; Burdett, of Sutton; and E. Stevenson, of Loughborough; together with the following gentlemen:—Henry Freeman Coleman, Esq., of Evington hall; C. R. Edmonds, Esq.; and Messrs Vickers, sen., Vickers, jun., J. Austin, W. Stevenson, H. Hull, C. Bilson, J. Collier, — Bedells, and others of Leicester. Dr Cox, of Hackney, was unanimously called to the chair, which he consented to occupy, on the understanding that he should be held at perfect liberty to give his opinions upon any questions which might come before the meeting. Mr Hopwood, independent minister of Lutterworth, then implored the divine blessing upon the proceedings. In opening the meeting, Dr Cox, in a most conciliatory and candid speech, referred to the deep interest he took in the great question which bids fair to become the engrossing one of the present age; briefly reviewed what had been attempted in London, to meet the acknowledged want of more active and systematic effort for the enfranchisement of Christianity from every species of secular control; and urged the importance of so proceeding, in reference to this subject, as to secure the cordial co-operation of all the sincere friends of the voluntary principle. At the close of his speech, the first resolution, to be found in our advertising columns, was proposed and seconded. Upon this resolution, the most animating and earnest discussion took place. We are unable to give a report of the speeches, and must consequently content ourselves with an indication of the principal topics which occupied the attention of the meeting. On the necessity for commencing an aggressive movement upon the establishment, there existed no difference of opinion. The grounds laid in the resolution under discussion, as the basis of action resolved upon, were admitted by all—and were felt to impose upon dissenters an onerous responsibility, from which they could not consistently withdraw themselves. The principal objection to the proposed convention was, that opinion was not yet sufficiently enlightened and ripe amongst dissenters to warrant a hope of making a formidable demonstration against the union of church and state. It was strongly urged that some preparatory work was needed—that ministers must be induced to instruct their people, by lectures, tracts, &c.—and that after a year or two's unremitting exertion in this more private and noiseless way, a convention might be held with far greater probability of producing a powerful effect. To this it was replied, that the convention was not sought with any view to produce an impression upon our rulers, or upon the minds of churchmen. It was not to be a display of strength, which, when made, would satisfy the intentions of the originators. On the contrary, it was contended for solely with a view to collect,

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organise, and bring to bear, such opinion as already existed. It would not set aside the more quiet machinery already alluded to, but was regarded as a main spring to put such machinery in motion. The immediate object of the convention, it was alleged, was to awaken dissenters themselves to a sense of their duty in reference to this question—clearly to expound their principles—judiciously to arrange plans for giving effect to them—and for this purpose, by means of fair representation, to call into existence an unsuspected executive body, charged with the high trust of directing the movement, and placed in a position of responsibility to a wide constituency. By this means, it was thought, dissenters would be instantly emancipated from the domination of cliques—such earnestness as already exists would be evoked from obscurity, and a sound and efficient organisation would be put and kept in motion, which, by prudent, conciliatory, and at the same time uncompromising conduct, would soon command respect, and ultimately become all but irresistible. It was further objected that a convention was disapproved of by the London ministers, and without their cordial co-operation, the attempt to carry one would fail. It was recommended, consequently, that further efforts to conciliate their good-will should be made previously to the adoption of the resolution in question, and an amendment to that effect was moved and seconded. On a show of hands, however, the amendment was supported by none but the mover and seconder, and the resolution was subsequently carried unanimously. The second resolution having been cordially adopted, the meeting, which assembled shortly after eleven o'clock, was adjourned until seven o'clock, it being now about half-past three.

At the evening meeting a list of names was given in, of gentlemen whom it was deemed desirable to invite to become members of a general provisional committee. Dr Cox was earnestly requested to take the post of provisional secretary, which with great kindness he consented to do, premising that in doing so he would have to make some sacrifices, but that they would be made cheerfully, and that no efforts of his would be wanting to perform the duties of the office assigned to him. The list contained somewhat upwards of eighty names, and was afterwards made up to about a hundred and twenty—comprising gentlemen resident in all parts of England, in North and South Wales, in Scotland and in Ireland. These, it is arranged, will be forthwith furnished by the Secretary with a copy of the resolutions, and will be asked to join the general committee. Many of them may be expected to decline—the names of others may occur whom it would be well to add to the list. A sub-committee, consisting of the Secretary, Dr Price, and Mr Miall, was therefore appointed to take all the steps necessary for the completion of it—and as soon as completed it will be made public. The members of the provisional committee will be in the position of directors, and will nominate a central executive committee for arranging the details necessary to the success of the proposed convention.

Nothing could be more gratifying than the tone and spirit which pervaded this meeting. The entire absence from it of everything which could be justly characterised as personal or party ambition, the freedom and courtesy which marked the speeches, the earnestness of heart, singleness of purpose, readiness to conciliate wherever conciliation involved no compromise, and evident willingness to sacrifice anything which stood in the way of the success of this great enterprise, were worthy of the occasion, and such as it has seldom been our lot to witness. To the exhibition of this spirit, probably, as much as to the arguments put forth, it is owing, that Dr Cox consented to identify himself with the movement. Such doubts as he had previously entertained were speedily removed; and, with a sincerity which does him honour, he joined with alacrity the ranks of men whose zeal he had never questioned, and whose prudence he could now estimate for himself. In taking the post of secretary we know that he will encounter some obloquy, and will have to give much of his valuable time. He declared himself ready to do both with a hearty cheerfulness which greatly enhanced his kindness. The friends of the movement are under great obligations to him for his manly and truly Christian conduct on this occasion; and we trust they will show their sense of it by rendering him the fullest and most unreserved confidence and support. The evening meeting closed about half-past nine—not before a handsome sum had been put down for defraying immediate expenses.

To the friends of the cause at Leicester, a heavy debt of gratitude is due. They have had many difficulties with which to contend—and they have mastered them. They have done so at their own

expense. They have set this enterprise in motion without entailing a single farthing of expense upon its funds. They have done honour to themselves, and honour to the cause they came forward to promote; and, having accomplished their object, they gracefully retire, content to take no higher position in this contest than side by side with their future fellow-labourers. The example is strikingly worthy of note. May it be thought worthy also of general imitation!

#### MEETINGS OF THE FRIENDS OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN LONDON.

THE preceding article and report were in type for insertion in the *Nonconformist* on Wednesday, December 13th. We then informed our readers, that we had been requested, by a deputation from a meeting of ministers, which had just broken up, to withhold the publication of them for a fortnight, on the understanding that our doing so would greatly tend to the furtherance of the object which we had at heart. The meeting, to which we refer, had been summoned by circular, previously to the holding of the meeting at Leicester. At that meeting, which was not numerously attended, owing in part to the prominence, during that week, of the educational question, full and explicit statements were made by Drs Cox and Price, of what had been done by the friends of religious freedom in the midland counties. Dr Leifchild was in the chair. After considerable discussion, the following result was arrived at.

Having maturely considered the resolutions now read, as having been passed at a meeting of gentlemen and ministers resident in the midland counties, held at Leicester, December 6th:—

Resolved—"That this meeting cordially concur in the propriety of holding, at an early period, a conference of the friends of religious freedom, for the purpose of diffusing correct views on the great question of the separation of church and state, and of devising systematic and energetic measures; and, under all the circumstances, would express their strong conviction and desire, that the above resolutions be withheld from the public for one fortnight, during which interval the meeting, as a provisional committee, will endeavour to collect and concentrate the energies of those in this metropolis who may concur in the opinion above expressed."

This resolution having been taken into consideration by the sub-committee appointed at Leicester to complete the list of the general provisional committee, they agreed in opinion that the publication should be postponed as requested. Drs Reed and Cox undertook to call a larger meeting of the friends in London, which meeting was held yesterday afternoon at the Congregational library, Dr Cox in the chair. The transactions of the former meeting having been explained and discussed, it was moved, seconded, and agreed to—

"That the following gentlemen be appointed, on behalf of those friends of religious freedom in this metropolis who concur in the propriety of holding a conference, as explained in the resolution passed at a meeting held on December 12th, 1843, to confer and co-operate with Dr Cox, Dr Price, and Mr Miall, appointed by the meeting at Leicester, to take immediate steps for completing the list of the general provisional committee—Rev. J. Carlile, the Rev. C. Stovel, and Mr Hare."

It will thus be seen that a junction of the earnest-hearted friends of an onward movement has been happily effected, and steps will be immediately taken to complete the list of the general provisional committee; when the functions of the sub-committee appointed for that purpose will cease. Under these circumstances we see no reason to modify the remarks which we had prepared for publication a fortnight since, but rejoice that an additional pledge is now given to the public that a conference will be called together, on the subject of church and state alliance, under circumstances which will free it from the smallest appearance of being merely a local affair.

CAMBRIDGE CHURCH RATE ABOLITION SOCIETY.—The members and friends of this society celebrated their fifth anniversary by dining together, on Monday evening, the 18th December, at the Anchor inn, Bridge street, Cambridge, when about forty gentlemen were present. The chair was occupied by Mr Samuel Ginn, and the vice chair by Mr William Campion. After the cloth was withdrawn, the chairman gave "Success to the society," which was responded to by the treasurer, Mr William Brown, who remarked that, in a university town like Cambridge, it was certainly surprising to think a society of this description could exist. He explained the nature of the society, the objects most likely to be accomplished by men thus uniting toge-

ther to remove burdens, and proposed the health of the secretary, connecting therewith the toast, "Civil and religious liberty." Mr Richard Thulbourn, the secretary, in responding to the toast, made some able remarks upon the question, and proposed the health of Mr Collin, and "Speedy separation of church and state." Mr Collin responded; and, during his excellent address, highly gratified the company, and remarked that the sooner the thread that held the state and church together was snapped asunder, the better it would be for every man in the kingdom. He concluded by proposing the health of Mr Henry Smith, the editor of the *Cambridge Independent Press*, who is also a town councillor for the West Barnwell ward. Mr Smith, in responding, expressed his gratification at seeing such a body of men meet together to discuss this most important question, as good must ensue therefrom, both to themselves and the public at large. He concluded by proposing the health of the chairman. The chairman, after thanking the gentlemen for the very kind manner in which they had drank his health, entered into an account of the enormous exactions claimed under certain distresses for church rates made in the neighbourhood of Liverpool, which were in the *Nonconformist* newspaper a few weeks back. He also related what he had himself seen before the Cambridge magistrates a few days ago, when several poor persons were summoned for this unjust and unchristian impost. "But what matters?" said the chairman; "so long as these so-called followers of the meek and lowly Jesus fill their own pockets, and make themselves comfortable, the poor might perish in their ignorance and misery." The meeting was afterwards addressed by Mr Durrant, and Mr Thomas Woods, upon the necessity of the moral and religious enlightenment of the people of this country. The company departed to their homes about eleven o'clock, having passed an agreeable evening.—*Correspondent.*

CHURCH RATES AT BRIGHTON.—A correspondent sends the following particulars of the contest in this town:—"I observe in your short notice of the Brighton church rate case, you only give the state of the poll. At the end of the first day, at the final close, the numbers were—

	Voters.	Votes.
Against the Rate "Voluntaries"	1020	1416
For the Rate "Coercioners"	524	1286

Majority against the Rate . . . 496 130  
The refusal of the church rate in this town is no new thing. The 24th of December, last year, was marked by a similar defeat of church domination. Our present churchwardens, with the exception of the vicar's wardens, were chosen by the parish as men of integrity and liberal opinions, and on the 12th inst. they came before the vestry with their statements of accounts, and asked, in a business-like manner, for a second rate. The great principle of religious liberty had, in the mean time, worked so mightily in the hearts of the rate-payers that, to the honour of the town be it said, although the wardens were men of their own choosing, there could only be found 524 persons sordid enough to put their hands into their neighbours' pockets for the purchase of their "sacramental wine and the due performance of divine worship." This was a defeat of no ordinary nature—it was the triumph of principle over tyranny and oppression, with the whole weight of the clergy, professional men, and gentry, well backed up by Sturges Bourne's Act, canvassing and dragging by the nose a large portion of the shopocracy and their dependants; and in the absence of the stirring and exciting aid of parish squabbles, the "voluntaries" of the town were eminently successful in their resistance to the imposition of a church-rate, nearly double the number of persons having recorded their names in opposition thereto, as shown in the above statement.

#### [FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

WORKING OF LORD ABERDEEN'S BILL.—The decision of the presbytery of Edinburgh, on Tuesday last, in the case of Mr Smith, the presentee to the Tolbooth church, has surpassed the expectations of the whole inhabitants of Edinburgh. Never, perhaps, since the first institution of a Christian church, was a man rejected from being a minister on the avowed ground that he was too good for the congregation. Yet this is literally what the presbytery of Edinburgh have done in this case. All the members admitted the excellence of his preaching; but his sermons did not show evidence, they said, that he could preach with that plainness which was level to the capacity of the congregation. Every one here is exclaiming against the decision; but the secret is, we believe, that Dr Muir and his friends dreaded to signalize the first case under Lord Aberdeen's act by rejecting the request of the people, lest it should be said the people would not be listened to under the new system. And to do this he sacrificed a decent clergyman, who preached better than the half of his judges; and to crown the absurdity, all this was done at the instance of three allegators. The church is out of joint.

THE LATE FREE CHURCH SOIREE.—We noticed in our last the Free Church meeting at Tanfield. At that meeting Mr Alexander, of the Congregational church here, made a speech, in which he appeared to manifest no great objection to the endowment of the church, if only it could be maintained free and independent; thus giving up, or seeming to do so, the principle of the injustice of endowing one sect at the expense of another. For this he was pretty smartly taken to task by a correspondent of the *Scotsman*, who quoted some passages from former speeches of the reverend gentleman, which stood in awkward contrast with his present liberality. This



drew from him a reply, in which he repudiated the sentiments imputed to him, avowed himself as much an opponent to church endowment as ever, and that on the ground that an endowed church cannot possibly be free. This has restored confidence amongst the voluntaries here again; but it cannot be denied that at the meeting in question he did talk with a very dangerous familiarity of the possibility of a free church being endowed. The desire to conciliate the free church party, who avow this sentiment, of course, may account for, but will scarcely excuse, his latitudinarianism.

**COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AT THE ESTABLISHMENT.**—Some weeks ago the Edinburgh town council resolved to discontinue their official attendance at church. The minority applied to the Court of Session, who have decided that they are entitled to go if they please, in all their official paraphernalia, at the same time pointing with no hesitating finger to the opinion, that it is the statutory duty of the town council, as a corporation, officially to attend the establishment. The majority have, of course, acquiesced in the judgment, and allowed the minority to go; but we are glad to say that the Lord Provost, who, when first elected, showed some intention of going to the church, has on this occasion manifested a becoming spirit. He has declined to offend the majority of the council by going to church contrary to their expressed resolution. With regard to the obligatory duty of the council to worship in the establishment, he is reported to have said that sooner than go to church at the bidding of the Court of Session, he would resign his office to-morrow.

**RED GOWNS AND COCKED HATS.**—A motion on this subject was brought before the Lord President, Lords Mackenzie, Fullarton, and Jeffery, first division court of Session, yesterday (Friday); Bailie Urquhart and seven councillors praying for suspension and interdict against the majority carrying their resolution into effect. Two counsel on each side were heard—viz., the solicitor-general and Chas Neaves, Esq., for the suspenders, and Andrew Rutherford and A. S. Logan, Esqrs, for the respondents. The speech of Mr Rutherford in particular was very pointed and exceedingly cutting and sarcastic. At the conclusion of his speech the learned judges consulted together for a few minutes, and then intimated that they would take till to-morrow (Saturday) to consider the question. From what passed during the debate, it was very evident the learned lords were not all of one opinion, and it will not surprise us if they are equally divided in giving their decision to-day. Whatever way the case may be decided, the church party will be the losers. They are now a mere fraction of the community, and cannot expect the public, or the representatives of the public, to do homage to what they call their church.—*Edinburgh Chronicle.*

**RELIGIOUS TESTS.**—The resolutions against religious tests, adverted to in our last, as having been passed at the Aberdeen university, were moved by Dr Clark and seconded by Professor Macgillivray. A motion against them was made by Dr Knight, and seconded by Dr Cruickshank. Besides the movers and seconders, Principal Dewar, Dr Brown, Mr Macrobin, Dr Pirrie, and Professor Blackie, voted for Dr Clark's motion; and Dr McLean and Dr Lizars for Dr Knight's motion. Dr Knight gave in a dissent, with reasons, to which all the supporters of his motion adhered, and which were ordered to be answered. Thus three out of five of the Scotch universities have declared against religious tests for admission to their privileges.

**SCOTTISH BIBLE BOARD.**—In the *Leeds Mercury* of Saturday, appeared a letter from Mr Childs, in reference to the dismissal of Dr Welsh from the secretaryship, on the ground of his being a dissenter:—

"To the Editors of the Leeds Mercury.

"GENTLEMEN—An anonymous friend has sent me a paragraph from your paper of Saturday last, on the subject of the Scotch Bible Board.

"I will thank you to refer him to the 'warrant for the appointment of her majesty's sole and only master printers in Scotland, dated July 11, 1843,' wherein it is specially provided, that the board shall consist of the lord advocate, the solicitor-general, and the moderator of the General Assembly for the time being, two ministers, and two laymen of the established church; the four latter to be supplied in case of vacancy, also from the establishment.

"It is true, that on looking closely to the document it might appear the office of secretary is open; but the intention of the warrant is to make the Board an instrument of church and state, for although the appointment of its secretary is vested in the Secretary of State, the Board itself is restricted to the crown lawyers and the established church; and it is a perfectly fair translation of the document, that the officer by whom they give effect to their operations shall accurately represent their principles.

"I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,  
Bungay, Dec. 13, 1843. JOHN CHILDS."

To this the editor appends the following remark:—"Mr Childs admits that 'on looking closely to the document it might appear the office of secretary is open;'—we presume that it does appear so, and it is on that ground, because no reservation of the office is made in favour of the established church of Scotland, that Dr Welsh declined to resign it on his secession from the establishment. Highly respectable members of the Free Scotch church believe that the secretaryship was left purposely open, in order that dissenters might be represented there. However that may be, we think they are quite justified in complaining of the expulsion of Dr Welsh, because he had become a dissenter, as a species of government persecution." [Upon all this we make but a single remark. "Highly respectable members of the Free church" are beginning to see a great many things in a new light. Perhaps they forget, or wish

to do so, that some of themselves clamoured for the continuance of the Bible monopoly in Scotland, in order that the profits of it might be devoted to church extension. They took good care to exclude dissenters from the board, so long as they were churchmen. As to the secretaryship being "left purposely open, in order that dissenters might be represented there," it is like shutting up a half-a-dozen Irish repealers in a room, and saying, "You must have another man to complete your number. But the choice of him is left with you"—and then going out and boasting to a tory friend, that you have purposely left it to their free choice, in order that he might be represented there. No, no! If Dr Welsh's expulsion from the Bible board be persecution, it is but the idea of the whigs carried out by Tories—and they who suffer, are in the position of men who very unexpectedly are caught in their own trap.]

**GRANTS OF MONEY FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES.**—On Monday a petition was presented to the Hon. House of Assembly, by Mr Walcott, from the church and congregation worshipping at the Baptist chapel, Salter's-hill, St. James, praying the house not to grant any further sums of money for church or other religious purposes. A most animated and interesting discussion took place, which afforded an opportunity to several members to display their ignorance of our principles, and unwillingness to be interfered with in voting away the public money. Messrs Osborn and Spalding made themselves ridiculously conspicuous on the occasion—showing plainly what they would do, if they could; we beg to remind those gentlemen that they are "marked men," and will be henceforth regarded by us as unfit to represent a liberal constituency. Whichever way Messrs Russell, Leslie, March, and others vote, they deserve and have our best thanks, for the part they took in the discussion. We beg to assure the house, that the petition which has been received is only the first of a series of efforts that will be made to rid the colony of the excessive load of taxation, involved by the support of religion by the legislature. The question has already been largely discussed out of doors, and plans laid to bring it, in some shape or other, constantly before the house; we would, therefore, advise recreant liberal members and others, instead of snarling at those who petition, to make themselves well acquainted with the subject. Agitate it we will, and that we shall ultimately obtain our object, we have not the least doubt.—*Baptist (Jamaica) Herald.*

**MR NEWMAN'S LAST VOLUME OF SERMONS.**—It is asserted, on the authority of a senior member of the University of Oxford, that Mr Newman, in his last publication, has advocated the doctrine of transubstantiation, the mediatorial character of the Virgin Mary, works of merit, the monastic system, sacramental confession, and the celibacy of the clergy, and the necessity of re-union with Rome. Direct quotations are given, which fully bear out these charges.

### Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—In a recent number of the *Nonconformist*, you stated the circumstance of a dissenting minister in the eastern part of the metropolis refusing the use of a school-room to hold a public meeting in, such meeting being partly political. I am sorry to say that this is not a solitary instance, nor is the eastern part of London the only district where the use of school rooms has been refused. Such conduct, on the part of the pastor and trustees, to me is unfathomable. When they receive into their schools youths to instruct, do they not as soon as possible place them in the bible classes, in order that they may obtain biblical knowledge? do they not lead them to the sanctuary, that they may be able to attend to the ministration of the word of truth? do they not seek a blessing on the means thus used? do they not pray for their conversion? And in many instances their labours are crowned with happy success—the seed of divine truth enters the heart. The teacher rejoices; the pastor participates in that joy; the youth is proposed for church fellowship; he is admitted into the bosom of that church, to partake of its sympathies, its prayers, and to enjoy its high privileges; the pastor gives him the right hand of fellowship, with many expressions of joy and gratitude, that the word has not been preached in vain, and welcomes him into the fellowship and communion of saints—the highest privilege a mortal can enjoy this side eternity. And yet after all this, strange as it may appear, in some instances, the very pastor of the church, the very trustees of the school, have refused to concede to this young man those rights of citizenship, which they themselves enjoy; and even when others are seeking to restore to him those political rights which have been unjustly withheld, every obstacle is thrown in the way.

What must the world think when they hear of such anomalies as these? Will it not tend to confirm the infidel in his unbelief? for in church membership they profess to know no distinction of persons, yet directly they are outside the walls, then comes the distinction—I am wiser and richer than you. Is not such conduct also calculated to impress the mind of the youthful Christian, that there is a want of sincerity, where it ought to be unquestionable? for he must be fully convinced, that if he has judgment sufficient to choose for himself, who shall expound to him the way of life, he must have sufficient knowledge to choose who shall be his representative in parliament. More than this, not only has the Christian the right to the electoral franchise, but it is the inalienable right of all men; every man has a moral right to it, be his station in society what it may—be he high or low, rich or poor, learned or unlearned.

May those, therefore, who have been opposing those just claims, which are allied with the principles of truth, be led to see their error. May those who are halting between two opinions, decide in favour of justice and benevolence. May those who are the real friends of humanity, persevere in that righteous cause which is identified with the principles of Christianity; and may you, sir, continue steadfast in the advocacy of those ennobling

principles which you have hitherto maintained. That truth and justice, religion and piety, and every virtue which exalteth a nation, may abound throughout the land, is the earnest desire of yours, &c.,  
Shadwell, Dec. 23, 1843. W. A.

### OUGHT THE PRINCIPLES OF DISSENT TO BE INCULCATED IN DISSENTING SUNDAY SCHOOLS?

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—Permit me a word on this head. I do not consider it necessary that dissent should be taught in our Sunday schools as such; or that it is necessary that Sunday-school teachers among dissenters should look out lessons from which to teach dissent. All we want from ministers and all other teachers is, that they teach the whole truth, as well as the truth, and nothing but the truth.

When do dissenters hear those truths which are of vital importance to the purity, spirituality, and consequent prosperity of Christ's kingdom, expounded by ministers? With some worthy exceptions, these truths are with them a reserve for ordination and recognition services; which services are attended by one class among us, and that the minority. Yes, sir, there is reserve among us, and thus the few become enlightened, but the many are so ignorant as to be unable to give you a scriptural definition of a church.

Now, Mr Editor, I contend that, with the present translation of the Scriptures in our hands (altering agreeably to the Greek text such words as Easter, bishopric, &c.), that we have only to teach the whole truth, and thus teach dissent.

I am a dissenter; why am I such? Because a state church exists. Separate church and state, and I am a dissenter no longer; I shall then merely have episcopalian brethren, as well as Moravian, baptist, and Wesleyan brethren. Now to try the point, whether we can teach all the truth, without teaching this fundamental of dissent, let Sunday school teachers, next Lord's day, or as early as convenient, take for their lesson the good confession of their lord and master before Pontius Pilate, which they will find John xviii. 36 to 38, 1 Tim. iv. 13 to 16; and if they can discharge their consciences, and appeal to those whom they teach, as Paul did to those at Ephesus, Acts xx. 20, and not go the whole length of those who advocate the separation of church and state, we differ widely in our views of truth, and the unsophisticated meaning of the English language.

If Sunday school teachers, in our Bible and Testament classes, teach from the Acts of the Apostles, and Epistles, they will find, with no reserve, that points of dissent and protest will multiply upon them.

I am, sir, yours faithfully,  
ANTI-RESERVE.

Mill wall, Dec. 18th, 1843.

### THE LATE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—I am glad to see your remarks on the conference on education. The report furnished of the proceedings in the *Patriot* is decidedly an *ex parte* and piecemeal affair. Having been present at the said conference, I think those who so nobly advocated there the cause of freedom have reason to complain that they have not been honestly dealt with. Such *ex parte* statements may damage the *Patriot*, but I trust will in nowise injure the noble fund, to which one of the humble contributors is  
Yours truly,  
ANTI-RESERVE.

Millwall, 21st Dec. 1843.

### DISSENTERS AND THE MAGISTERIAL OFFICE.

It is generally supposed that, by a recent legislative enactment, the door to magisterial usefulness and dignity has been thrown as open to dissenters as it is to churchmen. Since that reform, and a partial reform certainly it was, not a few dissenters have ascended to the highest municipal honours; but whether dissenters can even now hold the magisterial office, with becoming respect for their own principles, is an inquiry of no small importance. In very shortly considering this question I shall presume to imagine one of the dissenting magistrates present, and to address him in the following manner: You are a dissenter—I trust a consistent one. Permit me to remark that, by a consistent dissenter, I don't mean one who, while approving the peculiar form of the Christian religion that is endowed, and of the principle of a religious establishment, continues, for some subordinate reason, such as education or habit, to worship in a dissenting chapel. All such persons are merely nominal dissenters, and their proper place undeniably is the bosom of the national Zion. A consistent dissenter is one who separates from the church established, either because he disapproves the form of Christianity, including doctrine and discipline, that is established; or because he condemns establishments of religion altogether. He may separate on both of these grounds; and there are thousands in the empire who do so: one of them at least is necessary to form consistency in dissent. There are some who reckon both of them essential. This demand is certainly extravagant and unreasonable. Surely one man, though admiring the form of Christianity that is established, may dissent because he condemns all religious establishments; while another, approving religious establishments, may dissent from the national church, because in it the form of Christianity approved by his conscience is not established. With the special ground on which you profess to be a dissenter it is not necessary that I should previously be made acquainted, since, if you are a consistent dissenter, you must adopt either, or both, of the reasons already stated; and as any one of them will answer your purpose, any one of them will suit mine. If you dissent from the church established because you agree not with its doctrines and discipline in whole or in part, how can you retain a civil office in which you are required to uphold this religion? If you dissent because you believe the establishment of any form of Christianity to be unscriptural, how can you support the church established? Can you perform all the duties of your office, and be at the same time a consistent dissenter? I fear not. You are by profession a dissenter; and whether you separate from the established church for one or both of the reasons already mentioned, you cannot approve the existing establishment. If so, how can you, as a mayor, or magistrate under any title, sign warrants to seize property for the purpose of paying church rates, or any such-like impost on behalf of the establishment? You must authorise these unchristian measures when a case requires your official interposition, and any magistrate would be unworthy of his place were he to refuse performing its



duties. I ask again, how can you conscientiously perform all the duties of your office? The established church is condemned by you because it is unscriptural; you reckon it unscriptural, its support must be in your judgment sinful, and are you not as a magistrate obliged to uphold it in more ways than one? If you must now do what you have before entering on office declared to be iniquitous, has office changed its character, or freed you from responsibility? You cannot as a private Christian hate persecution, and as a magistrate persecute. To what crimes would such base casuistry lead? The plea would serve a Jesuit; but it will, I am persuaded, meet with your perfect abhorrence. "What then," says the magistrate, "what is to be done?" The answer is ready. You must either cease to be a dissenter and join the established church immediately, or give up your office, when it requires you to do what, for one or both of the reasons previously specified, you believe to be in opposition to the mind of Christ. "This is a hard saying, who can bear it?" With all due respect for your rank and feelings, I calmly assert you must bear it. There seems to be no other way of escape. You must recede or advance; you can turn neither to the right hand nor to the left. Join the established church, and then you may perform all your official duties with at least the semblance of consistency, though I confess you will be visited, not unreasonably, with the charge of apparently obeying man rather than God. If you cannot, however, so suddenly cast off your principles, resign your office forthwith, severe as the trial may be, and you will earn the admiration of all good men. It may be said, "If dissenters refuse these municipal offices, they will be filled exclusively by churchmen, or by those who, for the sake of office, are ready to serve the church, and communities will be more oppressed than they have been for many a day." The first part of this objection must be admitted; the latter part, however, may be questioned. The national laws regulate the official conduct of a magistrate, and he is bound to execute them, whatever be his private religious convictions. If a church magistrate were to take the place of a dissenter, he would, therefore, only do what a dissenter must perform. But, granting that the anticipated calamity would follow, I ask any dissenter, is the probability or even the certainty of evil coming any reason why he should violate his conscience, and trample on his principles, in order to prevent it? Would this not be doing evil that good may come? Dissenters are, therefore, at all hazards, bound to quit magisterial offices as long as persecution, in any form, is associated with them. Let churchmen, by all means, *pro tempore*, enjoy these stations. Give them all the honour of persecuting! Let dissenters save themselves from the double crime of being inconsistent and persecuting at the same time. If they would only unanimously decline such civil offices, compulsion would soon end. Some have already manfully refused them; why should not all? The very act of refusing them, on existing terms, would soon bring a thorough reformation. Thousands would be called forth to demand emancipation from ecclesiastical bondage, who have hitherto been slumbering in their chains; and a fresh impulse would be given to those who have long been struggling on the field of liberty. Dissenters have as much right, and they are as able, to fill civil offices, as any churchman living. First, however, get the persecuting and degrading functions connected with them abolished, and then, but never till then, may dissenters hold them with honour and a pure conscience. This triumph of liberty, if dissenters would only exert themselves, might come sooner than even a sanguine friend may imagine; but, if they accept and retain these offices, the victory will only be so much the longer postponed. In the mean time, these observations are submitted to the serious consideration of dissenters in office, and all of their number who are aspiring to it. They may pronounce the judgment severe, and if they feel it to be painful, who is to blame? Does it not legitimately arise out of their own principles as avowed dissenters? If they are dissenters, how can they consistently uphold the established church? If they can uphold the established church, how can they consistently profess to be dissenters? M.

### The Complete Suffrage Movement.

#### REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES—MR CRAWFORD'S PLAN.

CHELLENHAM.

On Tuesday morning last, Joseph Sturge, Esq., of Birmingham, held a conference with some of the resident Complete Suffrage electors and their friends at the room of the Old Well Academy, Mr Goding in the chair. Mr Sturge, in a lengthened address, described the present condition of the representative system, and showed the impossibility of any good measure being carried until a House of Commons was really formed by the united votes of every male adult in the kingdom. He considered that both whig and tory were alike the enemies of justice and freedom, and were consequently jointly interested in perpetuating the existing degrading condition of the people. At the last election these two factions had spent one and a half millions in bribery; while by their votes in their own corrupt House, they had expended the public purse in such a manner, that forty-two millions have been added to our national debt during the past nine years, and they had also increased the taxes of the country eight millions during the past three years. The Complete Suffrage Union had resolved upon opposing every motion that was made in the forthcoming session for the granting of the supplies, until the grievances of the people were redressed. They had obtained the promise of Sharman Crawford, Esq., and other M.P.s, to carry this out, provided they were backed by the country. He was before them on the present occasion to ascertain the sense of the electors of this town on this important question. Mr Hollis proposed, and Mr E. Wilks seconded, the following resolution, which was carried *nem. con.* :—

"That in the judgment of this meeting, the present position and prospects of this country render it necessary that the friends of civil and religious and commercial freedom should claim from their representatives in parliament a promise, that the grievances of the people should be investigated and redressed, before the supplies are voted."

It was next proposed by Mr. S. C. Harper, and seconded by Mr. Hollis, and carried *nem. con.* :—

"That it is the opinion of this meeting, that a public meeting should be called at the earliest practicable period, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of adopting the recommendation contained in the first resolution; and that the Hon. C. F. Berkeley, M.P., Joseph Sturge, Esq., Rev. T. Spencer, M.A., and the Rev. B. Parsons, of Ebley, be invited to attend the same." On the motion of Messrs Sturge and T. Banfield, the following electors were appointed a committee to make arrangements for the said meeting:—Messrs Winters, Hughes, Harper, Hollis, Davis, Paine, Vaughan, Wilks, Willey, Goding, J. Banfield, Jenkins, Wilson, Hampton, and Payne. Mr Sturge afterwards left for Stroud, to attend a public meeting in the evening, from whence he was to depart for Sheffield.—*Cheltenham Free Press.*

#### BATH.

A conversational meeting of a very interesting character was held in this city on Thursday evening, the 21st inst., to receive Joseph Sturge of Birmingham, and Thos. Beggs of Nottingham, as a deputation from the Complete Suffrage Union. It was intended to hold a public meeting, but the mayor having refused the use of the Guildhall, the friends of complete suffrage convened a meeting by circular. It was very numerous and respectably attended—a great number of the council being present. Admiral Gordon was called to the chair, who, after a few remarks, introduced Mr Sturge to the meeting.

Mr STURGE began by drawing the attention of the assembly to the conduct of the House of Commons, which he described as not representing the intelligence of the community, but representing little else than the one million and a half of money, or rather more, which had been expended in returning them at the last election [cheers]. He referred to several votes to show that they did not care for the people's interests, and that they were determined not to inquire into their distresses. It was high time that they should be made responsible to the people. And he was one of those who believed that that responsibility could only be ensured by giving complete suffrage [cheers]—but if he was not of this opinion, if he thought that any other measure would do justice to the people, the plan he was about to propose to them, would, under such circumstances, meet with his cordial support, for it presented this feature—that it was so simple, and at the same time so comprehensive a principle, that all parties who had grievances to redress might take advantage of it. He then entered at length into the plan, enforcing it strongly upon the attention of those present.

Mr BEGGS was then called forward, and went still further to explain and defend the plan proposed. It had been forced upon the people by their rulers, and not until every avenue of approach to the house had been closed against them [cheers]. He examined the constitution of that assembly—its general conduct in times of national distress. Instead of listening to the people's grievances with a view to their redress, it trifled through the last session, and crowned its disgraceful career by arming 10,000 of the Chelsea pensioners against their fellow-citizens—a sufficiently plain indication that they intended to coerce the people into submission, instead of doing them justice [loud cheers].

Mr WASSALL, baptist minister, thought, on matters of moment like this, we ought to move with caution, but felt that something was necessary in the present state of the country, and if this plan was adopted, it ought to be carried on with energy [cheers].

Mr Councillor ORCHARD moved—"That this meeting fully approves of the plan of W. S. Crawford, and resolve to hold a public meeting, as soon as Mr Sturge can make it convenient to attend, to consider the propriety of sending memorials to the members for Bath, urging them to its support."

Mr Alderman CRISP seconded the motion in a good speech. Votes of thanks were moved to the Chairman and to the deputation, and steps are now taking to call a public meeting in the Guildhall. The refusal of the mayor to grant the town hall, and his trifling with the gentlemen appointed to see him, for ten days, before he gave a final answer, has roused the indignation of the liberals of Bath.

The *Bath Journal*, which gives a condensed report of the above meeting, thus refers to the conduct of the mayor:—"There were many of the liberal members of the town council present, with whom there was a difficulty to understand the grounds on which the mayor had refused the town hall for a public meeting. We doubt not his worship has reasons for his denial, and may be honest in intention, though, as we believe, wrong in his opinion. The meeting of the people must be allowed to discuss the great question of suffrage, and the liberal members of the council will, no doubt, see that they be not denied this great privilege. It is a constitutional truth, that the House of Commons shall be a full and fair representation of the people. Surely no one can deny the right or the propriety of a free people meeting to see whether or not they are fairly represented in their own Commons' house of parliament; and if they find they are not, to show wherein their confidence has been abused, and to decide on such measures as they deem necessary to remedy such evil."

#### GREAT MEETING AT BRISTOL.

#### GREAT MEETING AT BRISTOL.

On Friday evening, Dec. 22, a large and influential meeting was held in the large room, Broadmead, to receive a deputation from the National Complete Suffrage Union, consisting of Joseph Sturge, Thomas Spencer, and Thomas Beggs, on the subject of Crawford's plan. An intense interest was excited, and

the assembly was large, enthusiastic, and influential—above 2,000 persons were present. At 7 o'clock the deputation arrived, and were received with great applause. Mr Josiah Hunt was called to the chair; who stated, that he had been taken a little unprepared to fill that situation. He was known as a friend to free trade principles [loud cheers]—he was equally friendly to the principles of equity and justice in other matters—and, on this ground, requested, what he knew would be granted, a candid and impartial hearing for the gentlemen who had come to lay before them a plan to unite all classes of reformers [hear, hear]. These gentlemen could not possibly have any motive but a disinterested one. Coming from a distance, and in the discharge of great public duties, they were entitled to every attention and respect—he felt quite safe in the belief that this would be accorded them [cheers]. He would introduce, first—

Mr T. SPENCER, of Bath, who, on coming forward, was received with loud cheers. Mr S. said, he was in favour of a full measure of justice for the people. The present system was exceedingly corrupt, and pressed upon our population with great severity. He proceeded at great length to show the evils of the present system of government, exhibiting a necessity for some great change. He contended for the justice, expediency, and perfect safety of every man possessing a vote. What was in this calculated to frighten any man of thinking mind? [loud cheers]—and why did men of right principles and Christian feelings, object and say that politics and agitation did not belong to them? Who did it belong to—rogues and vagabonds? [a laugh]—no such thing, it belonged to good men, to see that justice was done to the whole of the community. And he hoped that the time was come when a sound union would take place amongst the various classes of reformers. He proceeded at great length, and in a clear and able manner, to show the present bad state of things in the church, the army, and in every part of the system. What he wanted was to bring back the principles of the constitution, and give the people that fair share of power which would enable them to select honest representatives [loud cheers]. He quoted Hume and Dean Swift in favour of the principles for which we contended—they were already sanctioned by the principles of the constitution—and as our present system worked ill, we had a right to demand that those rights should be restored. It was alleged that the people would destroy property when they became free—why do they not destroy it now? They are the majority—why was their ignorance not dangerous now? It was dangerous indeed, and would only cease to be so when justice was done them. What was it they asked? Simply to select a man who was to be their friend. It was actually argued as if the whole people would then become law-makers [cheers]. They did not ask that they should make the laws, but that they should choose the men who did. It did not suppose that they would know all about commerce, and law, and government, it merely asked for them to choose those men who did understand it; and surely, as they had to pay for those things, and had to obey the laws, it was due to them that they should have some share in making them [cheers]. It was then said that the suffrage was conceded by many—but there are so many other points; the fact is, they are only so many divisions of one point. Complete representation, for instance—they asked for every man having one vote, and no more, and that one man's vote should be worth as much as another—and that the man's vote in one part of the country should not be overvalued by another; this led to electoral districts. The man having a vote ought to be protected from a tyrannical landlord, or employer, and this rendered the ballot necessary. The man should have free choice to select his friend where he liked: this led to the no-property qualification; and having selected him in order that he might not suffer by his public services, he ought to be paid; and by the way of having short reckonings, it was necessary to have annual parliaments—these were the horrible six points [loud cheering]; and all those except one, the ballot, were already recognised in the British constitution. He then went on to call the attention of the meeting to W. S. Crawford's plan, and urged the necessity of there being a unanimous effort to support those men who would take up the question, and bring the people's grievances before the house. The address, which took nearly two hours in the delivering, elicited frequent manifestations of applause.

JOSEPH STURGE was then introduced to the meeting, and was received with several shouts of applause. He proceeded to inquire into the conduct of the House of Commons, and proved their utter disregard of the people or their interests. How could they be supposed to care for the country, when the majority of them had obtained their seats by means more nefarious than many of the crimes which they made laws to punish [great cheering]? Their votes were sufficient to back the indictment against them—proving that they were determined to oppose every attempt, even to bring the public grievances before them. Their conduct on Sharman Crawford's motion, for a full, fair, and free representation of the people—and, also, on the motion for a repeal of the septennial act—the majority against which contained the name of the leader of the reform party, Lord John Russell—was sufficiently conclusive as to their disposition to the country. Members of the house saw it was of no use struggling there, unless the country would back them in some decided measure; and the necessity of some forcible and bold stand against the encroachments of the aristocracy, and in vindication of the people's claims, was urged upon them, by the failure of every other



means which had been tried to effect a change in our institutions [loud cheers]. For instance, the existence of an army—a standing army in a state of profound peace, was contrary to the constitution; and how did they get over it? By passing the mutiny act every year. 10,000 men had been added to the army in Lord John Russell's administration; and 10,000 since then. W. S. Crawford was determined that this attempt to rule by purely physical force should not pass without resistance. Mr Sturge then read an extract from W. S. Crawford's letter, exhibiting the extreme difficulty that awaited the introduction of any question opposed to the ministry. He then went on to show, that by moving repeated amendments, on the army, as an instance, a few good and true men could compel the government to listen at least to the prayers of the people [loud cheering]. They had two applications:—first, they applied for the number of men, which he believed was now 130,000; and then for the money. The mode adopted would be, when the estimate was brought in, to move a reduction of a certain number on the whole amount, say 50,000; when that amendment was lost, it would leave the original motion as it found it; then an amendment could be made for 49,000—and so on through a thousand amendments, until they were compelled to give an ear to the people [loud cheering]. Mr S. then went on to defend this measure, showing that it was one on which the friends of free trade, justice to Ireland, as well as the friends of complete suffrage, could unite. Mr Sturge retired amidst very great applause.

T. BEGGS was then introduced to the meeting:—He said that his apology for appearing before them was to be found in the state of the country, and the alarming aspect of our present times; it was necessary that some great organic change should be effected—some change that would take the excess of power from a class, and give it to the community [cheers]. He adduced facts from the constitution of the House itself, from its indifference to the interests of the country, as well as the means by which it was elected, to show that it was only in theory the House of Commons—really the servant of the aristocracy. There was a new conflict begun—former ages had witnessed a fierce struggle between kingly and aristocratic power—this was a struggle betwixt the people and that spirit of aristocracy, which had been the bane of humanity through all times, and which now was insolently treading down the industry of the community [cheers]. No state of things could be worse—and the salvation of the country was now in the hands of the people themselves. Both the great parties who had ruled the state had forfeited the confidence of the people, and the hopes of the country were now fixed upon a third party, who were rising up, and would be backed by the popular sentiment [cheers]. It was high time that the voice of the people should thunder at the door of the house of Commons, and like the spirit of a second Cromwell, chase the corruptionists away [bursts of applause]. No part of the system offered any other feature than unmixt evil. The church—he meant the state-church—was one of the greatest enormities; it reaped large revenues for teaching the people their moral and Christian duties, and yet the people were untaught, and pronounced to be too ignorant to enjoy the rights of men [cheers]. Was it not time the people should have the franchise, in order that they might have the power to choose their own instructors? [cheers.] This church was a mere secular institution; it supported armies, and offered up prayers for their success; and in its cathedrals erected monuments to the heroes who, in other terms, had been butchers of their kind. The church had been the aider and abettor of every other enormity—the barrier betwixt the people and progress—and most conscientiously could its priests repeat that part of the liturgy, 'We have done those things which we ought not to have done' [long continued bursts of applause]. He then went on to defend Mr Crawford's plan, showing that though some pronounced it an extreme measure, it had not been adopted until every other avenue of approach to that house had been stopped. It was the only means now left the people, and would be nothing in effect unless it was backed by public opinion. That power had wrested from the aristocracy great measures before now—and that moral power, founded upon right principles, would yet produce great results. Society was pregnant with great hopes. Talk of moral power! look at Ireland, festering with the disease of centuries!—look how her sober and peaceful attitude had thwarted the supporters of corruption. They had poured in their troops and artillery; Ireland was one extensive barrack; and what was all this to a people who had declared, "We will not go to war?" The Duke of Wellington had found a tougher enemy than his army conquered on the field of Waterloo. He had now the power of opinion to meet. That was a spirit which would beat his military skill—a spirit with which he was not likely to measure swords. Millions of hearts are throbbing with one desire for freedom. Is that high hope to be stifled in its cradle? [loud cries of "No, no."] No; it will grow into being—and, with a majestic stride, trample down all the barriers opposed to the happiness of man [loud cheers]. Let the people do their duty, and it would be utterly impossible to keep down the spirit of inquiry which will, ere long, end in the redemption of mankind. The speaker was long and loudly applauded at the conclusion; he then moved, at the request of the committee of the Suffrage union, the following resolution:—

"That, in the deliberate opinion of this meeting, the representatives of the people in parliament ought to be called on by their constituents to unite together for the purpose of forcing upon the attention of parliament the grievances of the people before voting the supplies; and that this plan of action be especially recommended, because it is perfectly practical, con-

sistent with the functions of the house of Commons, simple in its operation, legal, just, and necessary; has been successfully used in former periods of our history to resist the encroachments of the Crown, and offers to a despairing and disheartened people the power of at once removing abuses, and of realising, at no distant period, the only security to be found against misgovernment, in that full, fair, and free representation in the Commons' house of parliament, to which they are entitled alike by the principles of equity and the British constitution."

Mr JOHNSON seconded it; speaking with great approbation of the plan proposed. Mr HUER, a chartist, came forward to express his pride and pleasure that the period he so long looked for had come at length—some practical step which would bring the middle classes to help in the great struggle for political freedom [cheers]. The meeting was briefly addressed by Mr Rutton, Mr Merrick, and Mr Garner. The resolutions for the adoption of memorials were carried unanimously with the greatest enthusiasm. At eleven o'clock this great meeting terminated; which, for numbers and enthusiasm, has scarcely been equaled for a long time in Bristol.

STROUD.—On the same evening, a meeting was held in the large subscription room at Stroud, and, notwithstanding a charge for admission was made to the whole of the audience, the meeting was very numerous attended, including a large number of ladies. Mr Sturge was called to the chair, who, after briefly addressing the meeting, introduced Mr Thomas Spencer of Bath, who, in a speech of nearly two hours in length, set forth, in the most convincing and able manner, the enormous evils of class legislation, and its effects upon the civil, religious, and commercial freedom of the country. His address was listened to with the most marked attention by the audience, interrupted only by bursts of applause. When he sat down, the Chairman stated the course it was proposed to pursue in the next session of parliament, with regard to moving amendments on the supplies, until the grievances of the people were heard and redressed; and the following resolution was unanimously and enthusiastically adopted:—

"That, in the deliberate opinion of this meeting, the representatives of the people in parliament, especially the members of this borough, ought to be called on by their constituents, to unite together for the purpose of forcing upon the attention of parliament the grievances of the people before voting the supplies; and that this plan of action be especially recommended to them, because it is perfectly practical, consistent with the functions of the House of Commons, simple in its operation, legal, just, and necessary—has been successfully used in former periods of our history to resist the encroachments of the crown, and offers to a despairing and disheartened people the power of at once removing abuses, and of realising, at no distant period, the only security to be found against misgovernment, in that full, fair, and free representation in the Commons' house of parliament, to which they are entitled, alike by the principles of equity and the British constitution."

GLoucester.—On the 20th inst, Joseph Sturge met a select number of the reformers of Gloucester, invited by circular; who, after having considered the proposition of W. S. Crawford, cordially approved of it, and appointed a secretary to make arrangements for convening a public meeting.

NORWICH.—The union is steadily progressing, by additional members, every month. The general monthly meetings are held in the old Library room, St Andrew's hall, where lectures and addresses are delivered on subjects relating to the principles of the union. We have also established branch associations in three of the wards of the city, where monthly meetings are held for the enrolment of members, and to communicate general information. At our last general meeting, on the 14th instant, a lecture was delivered on "The Evil Effects of Party Politics on the Social Condition of the Working and Middle Classes." The committee of the Norwich Complete Suffrage union have just issued an address, from which we extract the following:—

In their efforts to accomplish the above objects, the Norwich Complete Suffrage union repudiate all connexion with any faction in the state, and emphatically disclaim all party feelings and party politics; all violence, intimidation, and fraud; and unequivocally reject every consideration deduced from mere expediency, when at variance with equal justice to all.

They do not seek to improve their own interests only, but earnestly desire to secure the happiness and prosperity of the whole people. They denounce, as infamous, the doctrine of an equal distribution of public and private property, regarding with reverence every man's person and estate; and while justly contending that no man has a right to use his property so as to oppress his fellow-men, they maintain the undoubted right of every man to accumulate property honestly—to keep what he has, and to be protected in the possession of it.

The Norwich Complete Suffrage union will use their best and unremitting endeavours to counteract all attempts at bribing, corrupting, or coercing the voters at elections, by exposing every guilty party, of whatever class or denomination; and will use their utmost exertions in spreading sound political information, and independence of thought and action based on Christian principles.

PROCEEDINGS AT LEEDS.—We have men in our ranks who are abundantly qualified to be the pioneers of a progress like this; but there is none amongst them more eminent for such qualifications, than the Rev. T. Spencer, M.A., of Hinton Charterhouse, near Bath. Calm, convincing, and conciliating, the converts whom he makes are of the most satisfactory and permanent kind. We notice with pleasure, therefore, that Mr Spencer has consented to deliver three lectures in Leeds next week, the first to be on "The Principles and Objects of Complete Suffrage,"—the second on "Class Legislation—the cause of Monopoly in Religion and Commerce," and the third on "The best Mode of advancing the cause of Civil and Religious Liberty." We invite the waverers on the subject of complete suffrage to attend those lectures, if they desire to base their opinions, on so important a matter, upon the foundation of solid reasoning. In addition to these lectures, there will also be a complete suffrage

demonstration on Friday next, at which Joseph Sturge, Esq., of Birmingham, Lawrence Heyworth, Esq., of Liverpool, and John Gully, Esq., of Ackworth Park, are expected to be present. We hope that these various meetings, during the next week, will be attended by large numbers of our fellow-townsmen.—*Leeds Times*.

DEVIZES.—Mr Beggs delivered a second lecture on complete suffrage, at the British school-room, on the 18th instant, to a large audience, composed of middle and working classes. G. W. Anstie, Esq., was called to the chair, and in an excellent speech adduced proof from the laws and highest authorities of the constitutional right of the working classes to vote for members of parliament. Mr Beggs then addressed the audience for some time, and was repeatedly cheered throughout his lecture. Mr Beggs delivered a third lecture on Tuesday night, at the close of which it was determined that the formation of a suffrage union in that town should be taken into consideration on Monday, the 15th of January; and a committee was appointed to fix the place of meeting.

MARKINCHE.—The usual monthly meeting of the Markinch Complete Suffrage union, was held in the hall on the evening of Wednesday, the 14th inst., William Tullis, Esq., of Rothies Paper Mills, in the chair—when the first of the second series of political lectures, under the direction of the association, was delivered by the Rev. John Johnstone, minister of the United Secession, Leslie. Mr Johnstone's subject was, "Civil Rights, their nature, origin (or order of acquisition), and their relative importance," which he expounded in a manner highly interesting and instructive. At the close, the Rev. Mr Halley and the chairman made a few remarks, proposing and conveying the thanks of the meeting to the lecturer for the trouble he had taken in coming to Markinch and favouring them with so interesting a lecture. The meeting separated, highly gratified with the clear, distinct, and comprehensive mode in which the reverend gentleman had treated his subject.—*Fife Herald*.

SHEFFIELD.—COMPLETE SUFFRAGE SOIREE.—We understand the soirée of the Complete Suffrage Union will take place on New Year's day, at the Assembly Rooms, and not on the 3rd of January, as before announced.

NEWCASTLE.—At the weekly meeting of the council of the Newcastle and Gateshead association, held at Mr Wilcke's, in the Arcade, it was resolved to engage a suitable room, for the purpose of holding weekly public meetings, when it is intended to read the *Nonconformist*, and other periodicals favourable to the principles of the society.—*Gateshead Observer*.

## General News.

### FOREIGN.

#### SPAIN.

The debate in the Cortes on the Olozaga affair has been for the present suspended. Gonzales Bravo, the premier, made certain statements in his speech which General Serrano declared to be false. Much confusion and recrimination ensued, and it was determined that the disputants should fight a duel. It appears, however, that the matter has been amicably arranged. The debate closed on the 17th, when General Serrano made some damaging disclosures. Three questions were put to him by a deputy, which he replied to as follows. In answer to the first he said that "the Queen had related to him the fact with ingenuousness and candour, but in terms different from those used in her declaration." To the second, that "her Majesty had told him that previous to her sitting down to transact business with M. Olozaga she had dropped a *bombon*, but that her Majesty could not recollect whether she gave it to him or whether Olozaga had asked it from her Majesty." To the third question, that "he (General Serrano) accompanied that evening her Majesty to the theatre, and that neither that night nor the next morning had he perceived anything in her Majesty's manner to warrant the belief that she had suffered any outrage at the hands of M. Olozaga." The discussion having closed, M. Sanchez de la Fuente moved the omission in the address of a paragraph tending to criminate M. Olozaga; but this proposition was rejected by 88 against 63, and the address was afterwards voted by 101 against 48. The Chamber next appointed a deputation to wait on her Majesty with the address, headed by M. Martinez de la Rosa, and adjourned *sine die*.

So desperate are the partisans of Gonzales Bravo against Olozaga, that he can now neither attend the Cortes with safety, nor sleep in his own house. Several attempts have already been made to assassinate him. For two days he had not been at the Congress. It was reported at Madrid, on the 14th, that he had left Madrid, because he had ascertained that the Government had given orders for his arrest. Another rumour is that he has taken refuge in Portugal.

The *Morning Chronicle* of yesterday has the following:—

Spain is again in a state of ministerial crisis. Gonzales Bravo is dismissed, and the process of negotiation and intrigue is once more to be renewed. Our private letters give the following account of the circumstances which have led to this result:—

On the 16th the Queen sent for M. Martinez de la Rosa, and called upon him to make up his mind whether he would accept of the post of ambassador in Paris. M. Martinez de la Rosa at first expressed a wish not to mix himself up with public affairs at present, and asked time, at all events, to consider the matter; but the



Queen begged of him to accept the situation immediately; upon which he said that he was always anxious to meet the wishes of her Majesty, and that he would accept; but that he would make one condition. The condition was, that a change should be made in the Cabinet before his departure from Madrid, so that he might have time to consult with the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, whoever might be appointed, and settle the policy which they were to carry out. The meaning of which is, that if her Majesty would get rid of Gonzales Bravo, M. Martinez de la Rosa would go as ambassador to Paris, but that he would not work with the late editor of the *Guiriguay*.

Upon this an indirect attempt was made to open a negotiation with MM. Cortina and Lopez; but these gentlemen showed little disposition to enter into an arrangement, nor indeed is it easy to see how they could be expected to do so, after their late declarations. On both sides declarations have been made that a combination ministry is not practicable, or, if practicable, that it would have no chance of living; and, indeed, past experience has clearly shown the truth of that remark.

According to the latest accounts an attempt was being made to reconstruct the present Cabinet, by retaining some and rejecting others of its members. It was said that MM. Carasco and Masaredo would remain in their present offices, the first as Minister of War, and the second as Minister of Finance. M. Isturitz and M. Miraflores were spoken of as successors to Gonzales Bravo in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and President of the Council. Two were spoken of as Ministers of Marine—M. Primo de Rivera, or M. Armero—the last of whom is Captain-General of Seville, and was Minister of Marine under the ex-Regent Maria Christina, at the time of the events in Barcelona. M. Cortaza, the ex-Rector of the Academy of Madrid, was spoken of as Minister of Grace and Justice. It was not known who would be Minister of the Interior. It is very evident from the names which we have given above, that the new Cabinet, if it should ever have existence, will be as essentially Moderado as the present.

The same journal also informs us:—"The intelligence brought by each post leaves no room to doubt that Spain is fast approaching anarchy and revolution. In Madrid the excitement is excessive. That excitement is fast spreading to the provinces, and the acts of the military horde who have possessed themselves of the Queen and Government will soon bring matters to a fearful crisis. We are so much in the habit of seeing and hearing of Spanish revolutions, that they are considered almost matters of course; but we will venture to say that at no former period was the situation of that unhappy country more extraordinary or more desperate than at the present moment. In the meantime the Government is preparing for what is to come. A body of 10,000 or 12,000 men has been brought together at Guadalajara, and placed under General Concha. It was said at Madrid, that a formidable army was immediately to be placed all round the capital, of which the troops at Guadalajara would form a part."

#### FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

**ERUPTION OF MOUNT ÆTNA.**—The *Augsburg Gazette* states that the late eruption of Mount Ætna has been most fatal—130 persons have perished, and the hospitals are filled with wounded. The small town of Bronte had hitherto escaped uninjured; but letters of the 4th inst. announced fresh disasters. A correspondent of the *Augsburg Gazette* gives the following interesting particulars of the calamity:—

I wrote to you yesterday in great haste (as an opportunity for Catania and Messina was just offering) from a place which people have agreed to call a convent, but which, at the present moment, scarcely offers a miserable shelter to the traveler caught by bad weather—where, before a sparing fire of dearly bought brushwood, he may dry his garments a little and warm himself. During the time I was writing my letter the top of the mountain had commenced, with renewed vehemence, and with tremendous noise, to throw out, at first thick black clouds of smoke and vapour, and soon afterwards a mass of water, ashes, sand, and enormous stones, which flew away in every direction, and, probably, at least to leeward, to a great distance. We did not think ourselves any longer secure in our place of refuge, and we left it to get nearer to the road leading to Aderno, as it now had become impossible, without much circuitous traveling, to reach Bronte, where I originally intended to proceed. We had, however, scarcely come into the open air, when we became aware that the present new volcano, in half height of the north-western declivity of the mountain, had also recommenced to rage, and to throw out a mass of fiery lava, which, as every unevenness of the ground has been filled up by the effusions going on since the 18th, poured down with immense velocity into the valley in a southern direction from Bronte. The vapour which this efflux from hell emitted, and the gas which developed itself, made breathing difficult. Being so near, we began to feel rather uneasy, and retired, therefore, towards Aderno, without, however, losing sight of the firestream. It had pursued, in the mean time, the direction taken up before, and rolled itself with a roaring noise over the road, already destroyed, and covered thirty feet high with dross and rubbish, and over the descent, cultivated with great industry, towards the sloping banks of the Simeto. On this descent a great number of men and women, inhabitants of Bronte and its vicinity, were busy trying to save from this universal devastation the fruits of hard and uninterrupted toil of many years, at least the wood of the olive, and other fruit trees, for firewood. When the firestream surprised them, many of them, some thirty persons, were completely surrounded and burned to death, and several others could only be saved with great difficulty, and not without dangerous wounds. Last night the new crater and the lava stream presented a sight which can only be speechlessly looked upon, but cannot be described. The moon came coldly piercing through the gloomy clouds, and hung her pale light over the country, blood-red illuminated by the fire of the eruption and of the liquid lava. Here and there, when the stream threw itself over a declivity or a craggy rock, a new awful noise arose; when the lava reached trees or shrubs, clear flames were flickering up suddenly, but only for moments, and also the distant trees were seen to blaze and fall. The highest cone of the giant mount did not

keep quiet all this time, but continued with the same violence to throw out, although without fire. During the night the imposing sight was heightened by vivid lightning forking through the darkness of the black clouds of smoke.

**LOSS OF EIGHTEEN LIVES.**—Intelligence has been received of the wreck, on Cranberry point, Goldborough, state of Maine, of the barque *Caroline*, 548 tons burden, Captain John Crawford, belonging to Greenock, on the night of the 21st of November, when eighteen out of twenty-two persons on board perished. The vessel immediately went to pieces on striking. The barque was bound from Grenada for St John's, New Brunswick, with a general cargo.

**EFFECTS OF DREAMING.**—A young farmer of the hamlet of Tourneurs, in the commune of Fontenelle, near Rheims, dreamed, a few nights ago (says the *Industriel de la Champagne*) that he fell from a tree and broke his limbs. The next day he told his dream, and, to prove that he had no faith in it as a prognostic, went out, and finding a tree similar to that he had seen in his sleep, climbed to the top. But, while feeling himself in perfect security, the branch on which he was seated gave way, and he came to the ground with a force that broke a leg and an arm, so dreadfully, that in three days afterwards he died.

**PREMATURE INTERMENTS.**—*La Presse* publishes the following statement, demonstrating the danger of precipitate interments:—During the night of the 7th inst. a man was supposed to die in the hospital of Gex. On the following morning he was placed in a coffin. At eleven o'clock the same day preparations were made for his funeral, when suddenly a noise was heard from within the coffin. The lid, which had been nailed down, was then raised, and the man was removed alive. He had only fallen into a lethargic sleep.

**PERTINENT AND IMPERTINENT.**—The following appears in the *Times*:—"One of our Paris letters states, that 'at Lady Cowley's soirée, on Wednesday night last, occurred an incident which occupies all the world at present.' Among the guests was a Mr —, who, believing that none but a friend whom he addressed was within hearing, said, 'And they call this a party! Why, I never saw anything so dull in my life. It is not worth the trouble of dressing for such an affair; and then the rooms are so intolerably hot.' Unfortunately, the noble hostess was standing near, and overheard them, and immediately said, 'Mr L—, there (pointing to the ante-room) is a cooler room, and beyond it (the hall) one still cooler.' This prompt and significant rebuke and hint was felt, understood, and taken."

**THE GREAT CHESS MATCH AT PARIS.**—This match, which has created a great deal of interest among chess players all over Europe, closed on Wednesday, Mr Staunton, the Englishman, being declared the conqueror. The match was who should win the first eleven games. Staunton has won them; St Amand, his opponent, only winning six, and four being drawn. The stakes were £200, but this was but a small portion of the money depending on the match.

#### DOMESTIC.

##### METROPOLITAN.

**ELECTION OF COMMON COUNCILMEN.**—Thursday was St. Thomas's Day, and the several wards of the city proceeded to elect their representatives in the Common Council for the year. There were some changes, but the accounts respecting them are so imperfect, that the general effect cannot be characterized; and to enumerate the names would tell as little. The scheme of corporation reform was noticed at most of the ward meetings, but generally nothing very decisive was elicited. In the ward of Farringdon Without a resolution against the measure was passed, and also one against the corn laws. In Queenhithe ward partial approval of the corporation reform measure was expressed. In Walbrook, Mr Frederick Rock, Alderman Gibbs's eager opponent, was a candidate; the show of hands was against him, and a poll was demanded. On Friday he resigned.

**ALDERMAN GIBBS.**—The "select" vestry of St. Stephen's, Walbrook, met on Friday, and Alderman Gibbs produced his accounts for the period since 1824, a bound volume about the size of a family Bible. The alderman had made such arrangements that he succeeded in keeping out the parishioners, who besieged the door; and Mr Rock incurred, *pro forma*, a forcible repulse by the police, in order to ulterior proceedings.

**LORD W. PAGET AND THE EARL OF CARDIGAN.**—An action brought by Lord William Paget against the Earl of Cardigan, for criminal conversation with the plaintiff's wife, was appointed to be tried in the court of Common Pleas on Friday, but it was announced that the record had been withdrawn. The *Times* received a letter purporting to be from Lord William to Lord Cardigan, "couched in the most offensive terms," and imputing to the defendant "the infamous and wicked crime of having bought and sent out of the way" the principal witness against him. The *Times* refused to publish the letter, which is also suppressed by other journals. In Monday's *Times* appears a letter from the Earl of Cardigan and his solicitors, totally denying the above statement, and saying that an action will be brought against Lord W. Paget for libel.

**METROPOLITAN DESTITUTION.**—The city committee for affording nightly shelter to the houseless poor assembled at the Mansion house on Wednesday. The Lord Mayor presided, and there was a numerous attendance of noblemen and gentlemen. The com-

mittee reported the result of their labours for the season 1842-3. In consequence of the increasing distress, they had found it necessary to open another asylum near the London docks. The total number of persons assisted had been 9,840, to whom 63,340 lodgings had been afforded, and 147,674 rations of bread had been distributed. The sub-committee managing the central asylum in Playhouse yard reported thus—

"It was opened for the reception of the houseless poor on the 3rd January, and closed on the 4th April. The number of inmates who have been sheltered during this period is 6,681, the nightly lodgings provided are 41,308, and the rations of bread distributed are 96,141. Though the season, as compared with the preceding seasons, has been by no means protracted or severe, yet the number of applicants had been much larger; occasioned, no doubt, by the unusual distress which has prevailed throughout the country. Before the Central asylum had been opened a fortnight, applications for admission had become so numerous as to endanger the health both of the officers and inmates; and it was not until you had opened your Eastern asylum, that anything like an adequate provision was afforded by the daily increasing number of houseless applicants."

Three of the officers were much weakened by severe attacks of fever, and two of the helpers died. The sub-committee managing the Eastern asylum, in East Smithfield, reported that it was opened on the 13th January, and gradually extended. The number of persons sheltered up to the time of its close, on the 4th April, was 3,159, who received 23,095 night lodgings, and 51,433 rations of bread. In accordance with general expectation, Lord Dudley Stuart, Mr Bond Cabbell, Lord Ranelagh, Mr Thomas Arber, and other gentlemen connected with the west end, were added to the committee; and the same gentlemen, with the addition of Lord Howard and others, were appointed a sub-committee for managing the western district. The householders of St Clement Dane's have formed themselves into committees to visit and help such of the poor as are in distress from want of work. About £150 has already been subscribed.

**STATUES FOR THE CITY.**—The bronze equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington, to be placed opposite the entrance to the new Royal Exchange, is proceeding rapidly towards completion, under the direction of Mr Weeks. The statue of William IV., from the design of S. Nixon, to be placed at the junction of Gracechurch street and King William street, will be shortly raised upon its pedestal. The figure is colossal, being upwards of fourteen feet in height. It is executed in Devonshire granite, and will cost £2,200, which sum was voted by the corporation of the city of London for that purpose. His Majesty is represented in the costume of a high admiral. It is worthy of remark that the spot upon which this statue will be erected is the exact site of the Boar's Head of East Cheap, a sign rendered so memorable by Shakspeare.

**METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.**—We understand that a deputation of the gentlemen interested in completing the new street in continuation of Farringdon street and the improvements in the vicinity, had an interview with Lord Lincoln on Tuesday, at the office of Woods and Forests. We are happy to state, there is every reason to believe that the difficulties which have hitherto impeded the progress of this great improvement will be overcome without further delay, and the nuisances which have almost precluded the use of the new church will be immediately removed. —*Times*.

**STATE OF THE METROPOLITAN THOROUGHFARES.**—The city police commissioner, in consequence of the filthy state of the streets, has issued the following order:—"The police constables are ordered to summon every occupier of a house or other tenement within the city, who shall not keep sufficiently swept and cleaned all footways and watercourses adjoining to the premises occupied by them. That there may be no excuse from ignorance of the law in this respect, the constable is directed to intimate to the person so offending that he is liable to a penalty of 40s. for every such offence, and that for the continuance or repetition thereof he will assuredly be summoned. The constables will observe that this order is to be enforced every day in the week."

**MORE MESMERISM.**—On Tuesday evening, at the Royal Oak, Abbey street, Bethnal-green road, the conversation turned upon the subject of "mesmerism," when a gentleman present (Mr Elisha Harvey, of No. 7, Ramsay-street, who has attended several lectures upon that science) offered, for a trifling wager, to send any person then present into a "mesmeric sleep;" upon which the potboy, a fine active, intelligent youth, about 18 years of age, expressed a wish to be "mesmerised," and his wish was complied with. After a few minutes the lad's arms and legs began to stiffen, the muscles of the throat appeared to swell, and he gave utterance to a low moaning expressive of great pain. At this time Mr De Llenen, the landlord of the house, entered the room, and endeavoured to arouse him, but without success. After a lapse of about an hour, the party became alarmed, and a medical gentleman (Mr Vandenberg) was sent for; but, notwithstanding every attention has been paid to him, up to the present time he has remained in the same state. Several other medical gentlemen have since seen the lad, but none seem to be aware what course to pursue with respect to him. —*Times*.

**DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.**—An alarming conflagration broke out on Thursday evening in the extensive oil-cloth manufactory of Mr Turner, situate at the back of Charles street, Northampton square, Clerkenwell, which, from the combustible nature of the materials used in the manufactory, in a short period of time ended in the entire destruction of the pre-



mises and stock in trade. Several of the adjoining buildings sustained great injury, and the total damage is estimated at about £9,000.

**DISTRESSING CASE OF SOMNAMBULISM.**—On Friday night, Henry Stirrett, a private of the Royal Sappers and Miners, threw himself, in a state of somnambulism, from his bed-room window, upwards of thirty feet from the ground, into a yard beneath. About an hour afterwards a corporal of artillery, who slept on the lower floor of the rear of the barracks, was awoken by a noise resembling a tub of water thrown from an upper window; shortly after he heard a considerable groaning as of a person in distress, which induced him to get up and go down to the passage door, when he found the soldier lying on the stones in the yard weltering in his blood, and with only his shirt on. The poor fellow was curled up, and lying between five and six feet from the side of the building. The corporal immediately raised an alarm, and, with assistance, the wounded man was placed on a stretcher, and conveyed without delay to the Royal Military Hospital in a state of insensibility. The unfortunate man received such severe injuries that his recovery is almost hopeless.

**COLLEAGUES.**—A curious illustration of the severance of acquaintance and society in this vast maze, London, was exhibited a few days since, at one of the metropolitan police courts. Most persons are aware that the magistrates at these courts relieve each other by taking it week about, or three days in the week each. One day last week a magistrate of the semi-hebdomadal regulation, turning to the chief clerk, asked, "How is Mr. —?" meaning his brother magistrate. The clerk replied that he was very well; upon which the magistrate added, "I am glad to hear it, as I have not seen him, I think, these three years." It seemed very odd that two persons, acting as alternate judges week after week in the self-same court, should pass three years of their lives without contiguity, contact, or communion; but such is London.

**LONDON PEACE SOCIETY.**—BOROUGH OF THE TOWER HAMLETS.—A ninth meeting in this borough was held in the baptist chapel, Prescott street, Goodman's fields, on the 20th inst. Mr Charles Stovel, minister of the place, opened the meeting with a short address, and a lecture was delivered to a small, but deeply attentive audience, by Mr Jefferson. The declaration of adhesion to the society's principles was signed by forty-two persons.

**A GOOD EXAMPLE.**—A congregational church in the neighbourhood of London, being desirous of paying off a debt existing on their school room, and at the same time making some provision for the family of their minister in the event of his decease, have recently effected both objects, by assuring their minister's life in the Dissenters' office, and then obtaining on the policy, in connexion with the personal security of some of the friends, a sum equal to their wants. The loan is to be paid off by half-yearly instalments, and the whole policy will then be applied to the benevolent object contemplated by the company. This novel feature in the arrangements of the Dissenters' office constitutes another and strong recommendation of it to the support of the dissenting community.

**THE NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE.**—The last report sent in by Mr Tite, the architect of the new Royal Exchange, on the 20th inst., to the joint grand committee for Gresham affairs, is, we understand, extremely satisfactory. The following are said to be the heads of the information contained in it:—It states that, with respect to the external works, the grasshopper vane, repaired and re-gilt, was deposited in its place on the 8th inst.; that the tower was completed to the cleaning down of the stone work, a process which will be effected as the scaffold is being removed. At the west facade the columns and architraves of the great Venetian windows have been set, and the carved shields and festoons over the openings and over the whole of the central arch have been finished. As to the internal works, the report touches, first, upon the basement, and states that the vaults over the basement have been completed, with the exception of an arch which is to be formed under the staircase leading to Lloyd's. In the London Assurance portion of the building, on the one-pair floor, the whole of the fire-proof arches have been turned, and the joists and partitions in the western end are in their places. In other parts the plates are laid. On the two-pair floor the joists have been laid all through. The roof has been nearly completed, both plumbers' and slaters' work being almost wholly finished. In the Royal Exchange ground floor the fire-proof arches have been turned throughout, and the joists and partitions have been nearly all deposited in their places. In the two-pair floor the joists have been all laid, and the quartering is in a forward state. The lead work to the roof of the portico has been within a third completed, and this department will require very little more labour generally. In the unappropriated room, on the one-pair floor, the fire-proof arches have been completed, as well as the joists and partitions. In the two-pair floor similar progress has been made. In Lloyd's room, on the one-pair floor, all the fire-proof arches have been turned. The reading room and the other rooms on each side of the tower remain in the same condition in which they were represented to be at the time the last report was made. In the roofs the plumbers' and slaters' work is throughout exceedingly forward, and but little remains to complete that portion of the work. With regard to the sculpture, Mr Tite expresses his satisfaction to be able to report that every figure has been transferred from the model to the stone, and that a month's labour will complete the work so as

that it will be ready for hoisting within that period. When the sculpture shall have reached its appropriated position, the finishing touches will be given to it by the sculptor. Judging from its present advanced state, the architect entertains no hesitation in assuring the committee, that if necessary, it could all be in its place and completely finished within two months from this date. The dials and hands of the clock have been prepared, and will be placed as soon as the scaffold has been sufficiently removed to enable the men to place them with safety. The machinery of the clock is very nearly completed, and the only thing remaining unsettled is the arrangement with respect to the actual tunes of the chimes. Upon that subject Mr Tite had consulted Mr Professor Taylor, the eminent Gresham lecturer on music, and he hoped that before the next meeting of the committee he should be prepared to report the result. The moulds for tunes of the bells have been prepared, and in the course of a month several of the bells will be cast. Mr Tite concludes with congratulating the committee, at the close of the third year of the work, on the generally favourable state of the seasons throughout the whole period. The mildness of last winter, and the unusually fine spring which followed, were greatly in favour of building operations; and although the early part of the summer was wet, yet since August, up to the present time, scarcely a day has been lost by interruption from the weather. He could see nothing at present, unless some unusually severe weather should occur after Christmas, to prevent the realization of his hopes, that the contract would be completed in the time originally agreed upon. The report has, we are given to understand, caused the highest satisfaction.

### Postscript.

Wednesday, Dec. 20th.

**EARL GREY.**—The following answer was given to inquiries at Lord Ponsonby's, in Stanhope street, yesterday morning:—"Earl Grey passed a good night on Sunday, and is going on favourably."

We have reason to believe a commission is about to be appointed to inquire into the state and peculiarities of the hosiery trade.—*Chronicle*.

We regret to perceive in the morning papers, further accounts of destructive incendiary fires in Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, two having occurred in the former, two in Suffolk, and one in Norfolk.

**A LIBEL ON THE LEAGUE.**—In a letter to the *Times* of yesterday, Mr. Ferrand, M.P. for Knaresborough, who has been engaged in a controversy with Mr. Brooks, of Manchester, respecting an absurd statement which the former declares was made to him by the latter, but which Mr. Brooks utterly denies, brings the following atrocious charges against the Anti-Corn-law League:—

I will take this opportunity of informing Mr. Alderman Brooks, that I am fully prepared to prove, before a committee of the House of Commons, that the Anti-Corn-law League concocted the late outbreaks in the north, and that one of their members, at a private meeting of their body in Manchester, declared that he was prepared to subscribe to a fund for the purpose of procuring the assassination of Sir ROBERT PEEL! Not long after this meeting the private secretary of the Prime Minister, being mistaken for Sir ROBERT, was murdered in the streets of London!

**RESUSCITATION OF THE COCKED HATS.**—Yesterday forenoon (Sunday) several of the town council, with Baillie Urquhart, the senior magistrate, at their head, proceeded to the High Church in their robes, and attended by the civic officers and all the usual insignia. Immediately after the interlocutor of the court was announced, a meeting of the town council took place in the Council Chamber, the Lord Provost in the chair, when it was resolved to resume the old practice of going to church in municipal state, leaving it, as before, optional with the members to be present or not, as they felt inclined.—*Caledonian Mercury* of Monday.

Letters from Manchester state that there are mills building in all the manufacturing districts of Lancashire, especially in the district of Blackburn and Preston; at the same time nearly all the mills already existing are being increased in size or in production by means of new machinery.—*Times*.

**MILD WEATHER.**—The genial mildness of the season in this neighbourhood surpasses anything in the memory of the oldest persons. Roses, violets, geraniums, pinks, auriculas, fuchsias, &c., abound in our gardens; and in a garden in Berkeley Vale, we observed more than twenty ripe strawberries. The fields and the feathered creation give every indication of advanced spring.—*Falmouth Packet*.

**INDIA AND CHINA.**—An extra India mail, direct from Calcutta to Suva, has brought dates from Eastern India and China considerably later than those of the last regular Bombay mail.

The journals of Victoria, Hong-Kong, are to the 12th of October. The sickness in that island had been such as to induce the officers of the Government to remove for a time to Macao. The trade had been opened with the ports of Foochowfoo, Amoy, Ningpo, and Shanghai, Messrs. Gribble, Thom, and Balfour being appointed consuls to the three latter ports. Some inconvenience was felt at Canton at first, in consequence of there being no responsible persons, like the Hong merchants, to deal with. Sir H. Pottinger declares the answer of the Chinese commissioners, when applied to on the subject, as most satisfactory. We regret to see the death of Mr. Secretary Morrison, at Hong-Kong, an individual highly gifted, and universally regretted.

Although the news from the Punjab is not much later than that by the last mail, it is still important, as contradicting the reports of Heera Singh's mur-

der; Lena Singh also survived. And both these chiefs, although previously opposed to each other, were reconciled for the moment, and wielded joint sway over the Sikh empire, that is over the 10,000 men collected in the vicinity of Lahore. Goolab Singh preserved his hostile attitude. The forces left in guard of Peshawur had deserted it, and the Indian papers argue as if we were bound by the treaty of 1838 with Runjeet, to maintain the integrity of his empire. Except the distribution of ammunition to the army of observation, and the announced purpose of the Governor-General to visit the north-western provinces, and quit his council once more, there are no tidings of the intentions of the Indian Government.

At Gwalior, the Khasgee has been seized by the troops without bloodshed, and his reign is at an end. It is supposed that this event will render the advance of an army unnecessary.

Dost Mahomed has been shot dead at Cabul by order of the Prince of Believers, the Khan of Bokhara. It is said that the Khan sent several papers, with his own seal, to Cabul, stating that whoever should kill the Dost would go to heaven. This event will probably lead to a suspension of any effort on the part of the Afghans to occupy Peshawur.

The accounts from Sukker are more distressing than ever. It appears that of the troops there 1,371 are in hospital, and only 163 well. Every officer but one in each corps is inefficient from illness.

The *Delhi Gazette*, of the 28th of October, announces the arrival, on the 6th of September, of a messenger from Colonel Stoddart, at Hyderabad (in Scinde), who had left Bokhara eighty days previously, but whose papers had been taken from him in the Pisheen Valley, by Meer Delkhan. He declares to have left the Colonel alive, though a prisoner in the citadel of Bokhara; but Captain Conolly had been put to death, as we have before heard.

**SPAIN.**—From Spain we learn that Gonzales Bravo had been obliged to continue in office, everybody else applied to having refused to take part in a new Cabinet. Narvaez wished for no change. It was the general opinion that Olozaga had fled somewhere to avoid the chances of assassination. The *Phare des Pyrenées* announces that General Prim is highly dissatisfied with the nomination of the Baron de Meer to the post of Captain-General of Catalonia, and that he has, consequently, thrown up his appointments, and was immediately to return to Madrid, where he would take his former place in the Progressista ranks. It was believed that a secret understanding existed between Prim the besieger, and Ametller and his forces the besieged, in the castle of Figueras.

**BRAZIL.**—A vessel from Rio de Janeiro has brought the message of the Emperor to the Chambers, which, however, contains nothing worthy of notice. The Minister of Marine at Rio de Janeiro having made a report to his Imperial Majesty, on the 2nd of October last, on the necessity and utility of employing the Brazilian navy as *guarda costas*, in order not only to keep them in a state of actual service, but, likewise, as his Excellency Senhor J. J. Rodrigues Torres observe, 1st, to give protection and afford assistance to their mercantile marine; 2nd, to suppress more effectually smuggling, and the illegal traffic in slaves:—his Imperial Majesty immediately ordered the decree to be issued carrying out these recommendations. It is evident from the above decree (says the *Chronicle*) that the Brazilian Government and Legislature are really desirous of putting down the slave trade, and that they are about to adopt energetic measures to obtain the realisation of their wishes.

**NEW SLAVE TRADE IN INDIA.**—The new slave trade, under the name of Coolie emigration to the West Indies, appears to be producing those fruits which its promoters all along calculated upon, and its opponents predicted. The evil is become so flagrant as to call down the condemnation of the *Times*, usually the last paper to denounce any criminal practices which subserve commercial cupidity. The following is an extract from a leading article this morning:—

Numerous cases are mentioned in the Indian papers of Coolies having been inveigled from the interior under false pretences, of their having been illegally detained at Calcutta, and of attempts having been made to compel their embarkation on board vessels bound for the Mauritius. \* \* \* Nobody can deny that Coolies have been inveigled from the interior, crowded into unhealthy ships, transported to the West Indies, and there consigned to an arbitrary and involuntary service. If these things be as we have stated them, what do they amount to but a renewal of the most odious and guilty traffic which the concurrent efforts of a people indignantly crushed? What do they constitute but a new slave trade? Grant that the practice is not universal; that only a few Coolies have been juggled or trepanned on board ship; that with the majority it is—what it is supposed to be with all—a *bona fide* voluntary engagement to perform free work in the West Indies, yet what does the exception to the uniformity of the cases prove? What but that there is already a disposition to foster a slave trade under the pretext of voluntary emigration, and to continue those horrible abuses which England laboured so honourably and so unceasingly to extinguish?

### CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

The supply of English wheat in the market is 1,800 quarters; of foreign, 900. Prices remain without alteration.



## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from "A Constant Reader," "J. G. Bass," and "J. Christie."

"A Peaceman." We had a strong article upon the subject some months ago.

"A Subscriber." We cannot touch upon the topic he has suggested; our views being totally at variance with his.

Some friend has kindly furnished us with a copy of the prospectus of the "Norfolk and Norwich Religious Liberty Society," which would have been more acceptable had the postage been paid.

The Index and Title Page for the present year's volume will be published with the number of the 17th of January, 1844.

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**The Nonconformist.**

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27, 1843.

## SUMMARY.

CHRISTMAS! What visions of hilarity and good cheer, of family gatherings and domestic felicity, does this word call up in the minds of Englishmen—those of them, we mean, who are not yet sunk into the abyss of poverty, which has swallowed up so large a proportion of our labouring population! 'Tis not as once it was. Christmas brings no gladness to the hearthstone of the poor. Myriads of families, toiling throughout the livelong year for a scanty subsistence, have enjoyed no holiday, have met no friend, have neither given nor partaken of hospitality, have sighed as many sighs, have dropped as many scalding tears of misery, as penury wrings from them on any other day. The mass of destitution in this country is frightfully on the increase. Wealth is becoming contracted in its circle—poverty, more intense and more extensive. Let not our readers forget, in what may be to them a season of festive joy, that there are millions abroad, scattered over the face of the land, to whom one comfortable meal would be a novelty—an oasis in the desert of life—a thing to be looked back upon with pleasant remembrance; and let them heighten their own enjoyment, by generously contributing somewhat to the enjoyment of others.

Christmas! 'Tis a time of in-door feasting—not of out-door excitement, as the newspaper press of the past week can abundantly testify. Sirloins of beef, fat turkeys, and rich plum puddings are not now in greater request in family circles, than are lengthy literary reviews, commissioners' reports, and twaddling correspondence with the daily papers. The *Times* is evidently put to it, to eke out its columns with readable matter. Passing unnoticed, as its plan is, the bulk of anti-corn-law and complete suffrage agitation, and finding nothing upon the surface of the public mind, of sufficient fibre to weave into a paragraph—it has betaken itself to Mr Chadwick, and other gentlemen of like occupation, and filled its columns with reports and articles on prison discipline, the currency, interment, and such like topics. Happily we are under no restrictions. It is competent to us to touch upon subjects apparently precluded to the *Times*, and we accordingly introduce our readers to the doings of the National Complete Suffrage Union.

By a reference to other columns, it will be seen that Mr Sharman Crawford's plan of parliamentary agitation awakens, wherever it is propounded, a very lively and general interest. Since our last, deputations from the Council have visited Cheltenham, Bath, Bristol, Stroud, and Gloucester; and at each place have been received with the utmost cordiality, and have elicited the greatest unanimity of opinion. The meeting at Bristol is described to us as having been, for numbers, respectability, and unanimity, such as that city has not witnessed, with one exception, for years past. The cordial feeling displayed by the working men, who had been wont either to stand aloof from, or to interrupt, every movement originated by the middle classes—is one of the most cheering features of the case. In the language of the *Suffolk Chronicle*, one of the most manly and best conducted of the provincial journals—"This movement, so fraught with mighty consequences, has at length assumed a tangible shape, and, following in the wake of the Anti-corn-law League, proves that the public are beginning to entertain the notion that the best way, as Colonel Thompson has happily expressed it, for two waggons traveling the same road, and endeavouring to pass a turnpike, is to let the fore-

most go through, and then both can steadily pursue the same route, and arrive at their several destinations without inflicting damage upon the other."

The League continues its meetings for raising the monster fund, and great success attends its efforts. At Bradford, in Yorkshire, the chair was filled by a well-known and influential conservative, who delivered a striking and energetic speech on the occasion, and gave a lucid account of his conversion to the cause of total and immediate repeal. At Macclesfield, Accrington, and other places gatherings have been held, and money subscribed. In almost every instance which has come under our notice, the pecuniary result of the present year's efforts has doubled that of last year; and, if present indications may be regarded as a fair sample of what will be done throughout the kingdom, the 100,000*l.* will be raised without difficulty.

Ireland has furnished, during the past week, a very characteristic and beautiful illustration of the working of the Arms bill, and of the relation subsisting between landlord and tenant. In the first instance a license to keep arms was refused by the magistracy, at the Macroom Quarter Sessions, to parties whose respectability of character, whose consistent loyalty, and whose peaceable habits of life, were guaranteed by unimpeachable witnesses, simply on the ground that they were repeal warden. In the last, property was distrained for rent due to Alexander T. O'Driscoll, a justice of the peace—one who had prominently figured in the scene above referred to—notwithstanding that a bill on the bank had been paid and discounted to him as landlord before the rent had fallen due. These incidents will do but little to soothe the now exasperated spirit of the Irish population, and serve to show the absolute necessity of an entire change of system in the government of Ireland, ere justice can be done to that long-oppressed people.

We greatly regret being compelled to state that incendiarism in the rural districts of England is fearfully on the increase, and that the country is now fast approaching to that state of insecurity and general terror which prevailed immediately anterior to the formation of the Grey cabinet.

## THE YEAR 1843.

THE chariot-wheels of time have brought us to another of those appointed stages in our career, whence it is natural, and may be instructive, to look back; deliberately to survey the ground over which we have sped; carefully to note progress, and resolutely to brace up our energies for fresh exertion. Amid the whirl of events, we are but little disposed, and less able, to take a calm and comprehensive review of the tendencies exhibited by the national mind—to scan its features, to look steadily into its eye, and through it, as through a window, to catch a glimpse of its inmost soul. The hurry and the din of actual conflict must have ceased—the clouds of dust and smoke must have rolled away—and the stillness of evening must have descended upon the past, ere we are in a fitting position to estimate actual results and future probabilities. The approaching close of another year not only places us in such a position, but solemnly prompts us to avail ourselves of it. History has gained another complete page to its ever-thickening volume, and invites anew our study. Let us look into it! Let us endeavour to interpret its otherwise idle tale! And out of the numerous facts which it sets before us, let us, if that be possible, glean the true moral!

What, then, is pre-eminently the lesson of the now departing year? What do the events of it denote? Towards what consummation are they hurrying us? In what general direction does the current flow? Taking the year eighteen hundred and forty-three as our text, what is the political truth which it expresses? We answer in brief:—The grand struggle between the claims of man, and the claims of property—between the essential dignity of the one, and the ancient usurpations of the other—is drawing near to its crisis. The lines of demarcation between the parties representing them are becoming more distinct. The inherent tendencies of each are developing themselves with greater prominence. Aristocracy puts forth efforts more intensely aristocratic—democracy makes larger demands, and is more determined upon realising them. The clanging trumpet, on both sides, is mustering their respective hosts for battle. This is to be the great encounter of the age—a bloodless one, we doubt not—and for that reason, above all others, a more decisive one than history has hitherto recorded.

The claims of man against the claims of property—this is the pith of the events which make up the story of the closing year—this is the candle, by the light of which we may most clearly read the historic page. The air of nonchalance with which the ministry opened the session of parliament in February, and the tame subserviency of the genuine whig opposition—the declaration of the men in power that they had no remedial measures to propose, coupled with the haste and heartiness with which they voted thanks to the officers of their armies in India and China—the haughty rejection, by the legislature, of every motion for in-

quiry which might lay bare to public view the worthlessness of their own pretensions, or the depth and virulence of the national disease—their repeated decisions against the repeal and even the modification of the corn laws—their atrocious Factories Education bill—their Arms bill for Ireland—their Chelsea Pensioners bill for the United Kingdom—the silent rapidity with which they voted the supplies—the contemptuous energy with which they flung out the smallest as well as the largest demands for organic reform—the unprecedented number of evenings upon which, in the teeth of public opinion, they counted out the House, and the railroad pace at which they proceeded with business as the shooting season drew nigh—all this, and much more, which want of time and space compels us to overlook, indicates that aristocracy is growing needy and desperate.

When to these hurried parliamentary notices we add a reference to the grinding exactions which drove South Wales into the arms of Rebecca; the stern tenacity with which the law of patronage was adhered to in Scotland, even to the disruption of the presbyterian establishment; the suspension, in Ireland, of the right of public meeting, the military occupation of the country, the prosecution of Mr O'Connell and others for conspiracy, and the collection of poor's rates at the point of the bayonet—and when, to crown all, we observe in England royal visits to universities, and to patrician seats, celebrated by extravagance of expenditure the most profuse, whilst close upon the heels of them, incendiarism, the flaring signal of hopeless distress amongst the peasantry, lights up the country from one end to the other—we think we are warranted in drawing the conclusion that property never wrote out more preposterous claims upon a nation's submission, never couched them in more supercilious and offensive language, never urged them with a more evident recklessness of consequences, than during the past year. The comparatively small class of "possessors," intrenched behind the lines of law, and protected by an irresistible organisation of physical force, have deemed it safe to disregard appearances, to treat decorum with derision, to laugh in the face of reason, to brave public opinion, and in all respects to treat the much larger class of "expectants," as born only to be hewers of wood and drawers of water. What they once did in secret, they now perpetrate openly. The disguises which once they wore they are able to discard. The conventional scruples they once observed they are beginning to trample under foot. The year's history shows them to be growingly careless of decency in their proceedings. Oligarchy is less mitigated and more virulent than ever. Its necessities, as they multiply around it, inflame its temper and harden its heart. It is now bankrupt in character, and the wonder is not great that it should show itself profligate in conduct. It is running its natural course, and is rapidly approaching its ultimate destination. Providence has bounded its career by a scale of degrees, and it has nearly reached its climax.

On the other hand, the events of the year eighteen hundred and forty-three furnish illustrations not less luminous and decisive of the rapid growth of democracy. The many, the oppressed, they who have wrongs whereof to complain, and indignities under which to be impatient, banded together under distinct organisations, are, each by its own route, marching down upon the common foe. Party names have ceased to mislead them—party promises to delude them. Full of self-confidence, they are daily nourishing and exercising their mighty strength. In England, and still more emphatically in Ireland, not a single outburst of passion has occurred to expose them to the murderous arm of a subservient soldiery. Under provocations of no common force they have patiently endured. Their marked abstinence from violent and even unconstitutional means proves the earnestness of their determination to work out their own deliverance. Resolved to conquer oligarchical domination, they have given a pledge of their sincerity in first conquering their own spirits. Scrupulously confining themselves to moral agitation, and reining in their impetuosity within the bounds of peace, law, and order, they know they can laugh the military to scorn, and that they cover a ground where neither sword nor musket can reach them. But they are not still. Indolence has not overtaken them. The power to will their freedom has not deserted them, nor their disposition to enforce it. The disruption of the Scottish church—the defeat of the Factories bill—the Nottingham, Durham, London, and Kendal elections—the magnificent gatherings of the League in the early part of the year, their bold and successful aggression upon agricultural districts, the plan of their last campaign, and the sums of money they are engaged in raising—the more decided tone adopted by the friends of religious freedom—the rapid increase in numbers and in influence of the Complete Suffrage movement—the monster meetings in Ireland—and even the sullen discontent of Wales—show the collecting together of the elements of a popular antagonism, such as few nations under heaven have witnessed. Often before this have a maddened people risen up in haste to cut down aristocrats—



never, perhaps, before has there been exhibited such a cool and intelligent determination to extinguish the principle itself, and overthrow the system, of aristocracy.

Call the several agitations now in progress by what name you will, they are all of them essentially democratic. All are asserting, in one form or another, the rights of the many against the usurped privileges of the few. The League, by its numberless associations, its tracts, its lectures, its aggregate meetings, its electoral struggles, its funds, is but asserting the right of the people to buy their own bread, and sell their own labour, free from the interference of law-making monopolists. The Irish repealers are shouting forth, in a voice of six-million power, their resolution to take the management of their own affairs into their own hands. The Free churchmen in Scotland, and dissenters who love their principles, in England, are taking ground against the claims of the privileged few to dictate in affairs of religion, and are vindicating the right of all men to think and believe for themselves. The complete suffragists, and the great masses of the working men, are asking why six out of every seven men are excluded from the rights of citizenship. Observe how all these parties are agreed in demanding back from the aristocracy some portion of the rights of human nature—how all are doing battle for man against property—how all are sworn to wrest from usurpation somewhat which they assert to belong to no exclusive class, but to the common race of our first sire! This may clamour for free trade—that, for freedom of conscience—the other, for full and free representation; but all are waging the war of kind against class—of man, as such, against men in such and such a position and circumstances. And, as might have been anticipated, the several parties are gradually approximating to each other—each radiating its own light to each—until, at no distant period, one may rationally calculate, a natural and spontaneous junction will be effected, and, before their united strength, class privileges will be leveled with the dust.

Such seems to us to be the moral of the political history of the past year. A conflict of opposite principles is at hand—of opposite modes and motives of action. The events of the year are but the drawing up in array of the hostile forces. Mind has been, and still is, at war with matter—intelligent determination with blind physical force—the schoolmaster with the soldier—truth with worldly might. Through what new evolutions the antagonist armies will have to pass, before victory shall declare itself, it is impossible to conjecture—but, happily, it is not doubtful on which side success will ultimately appear. Reason, justice, and religion predict the final triumph of the many over the few.

#### TRANSATLANTIC RASCALITIES.

Who has not heard of the American crime of "repudiation?" Who has not read the letters of the Rev. Sidney Smith, wherein keen wit, like a dissecting knife, lays bare to public view, the entanglements of new-world knavery? These matters are, in truth, growing somewhat stale, and the United States might almost hope that time would do them the kind office, which they have not the moral courage or the high principle to do for themselves, of rubbing off the dark rusty spots which they have left upon their reputation. Unfortunately, however, the political aspirants in America, seemingly unconscious of shame, are determined to "not willingly let die" the questionable fame of their country. They are pushing forward the question of the Oregon boundary with the zeal of freebooters; and, lest the world should suspect them of retaining any relics of virtue, they talk of occupying the attention of Congress, during the greater part of the present session, with the annexation of Texas to the States.

We foresee the urgency with which these transatlantic rascalities—for by no milder term can we characterise them—will be plied against democratic institutions, and especially against the doctrine of equal political rights. We are little disposed to adopt a line of defence which would shield these sins from severest censure. But we cannot forbear asking, what illustrations they afford of the evils resulting from complete representation?

Is it just that the people of a country should manage their own affairs? To this question how many thousands in this empire will, with an air of chuckling triumph, put in, as a sufficient reply in the negative, the repudiation of state liabilities, and the annexation, not yet consummated, of Texas. But softly, there! Are these crimes fairly attributable to the free institutions of America? Well, then, what say you of Scinde, recently annexed to our Indian empire? The contemplated interference with, and probable occupation of, the Punjab—the incursion into Afghanistan—the war with China—what are all these? If they are not offences of heinous magnitude, what constitutes the element of American guilt? If, on the contrary, they are admitted to be such, how can aristocratic institutions be proved superior to those embodying a democracy? Take which horn of the dilemma you please.

Complete suffrage professes to give to a people the advantage of perfect representation, and, by means of it, entire control over the civil government of their own country. If it be what it pretends to be, it will faithfully reflect, not what they ought to be, but what they are. If, taken in the aggregate, they are dishonest, cruel, or rapacious, it will exhibit their dishonesty, cruelty, and rapacity in their political movements. It matters nothing to the argument, whether representation be more or less extended—it is sure to bring out the vices and virtues of the constituent body. Why is public credit in England sustained at any amount of sacrifice? Because our legislators are more virtuous than those of America? Not a whit. But because they scarcely feel the heavy burdens they impose. Themselves, for their own class purposes, contracted the debt, and, with heroic magnanimity, they persist in making the industrious classes pay the interest of it. Doubtless, if Pennsylvania possessed a numerous class of helots, out of whose unrewarded toil Pennsylvania could extort a sufficient income, she would not have figured at the head of repudiating states. Vastly virtuous it is, no doubt, and very considerably convenient to the ruling class in this country, to keep its financial character unspotted, by means of making the helpless pay the debts of the powerful. Shift these same burdens to the proper shoulders—strap them on to property, for whose sake they were originally incurred—and how long should we be without aristocratic proposals for robbing the fundholder? how long before the monied classes would be compelled to submit to an equitable adjustment whereby no section of the community would be defrauded at the expense of another?

Political institutions, we have urged over and over again, will not make a people essentially more virtuous than they are. They may, and in this empire they do, greatly aggravate originally vicious propensities—and they may likewise, as in America they do, give fair play to Christianity to correct them. If the thieves in London were to place themselves under the control of a committee chosen by the equal suffrage of all parties, the immoral acts of such a committee would be fairly ascribable to the character of the constituency, not to the operation of the franchise they exercised. If America is not honest as a population, free institutions will not suffice to make her so. The wickedness which her people sanction, her various state legislatures, and her congress, will assuredly do. To correct that wickedness, the energies of religion must put themselves forth, and time must be given to allow them full scope. Then, when the population is improved, political movements will exhibit that improvement. It is the curse of aristocracy that it stands in the way of the free agency and success of the only power competent to renovate national character—and that, when national character is renovated, it obstructs the development of it in the department of legislation.

MR ROEBUCK.—A rumour having been spread abroad by the press that the member for Bath was about to be appointed to an Indian judgeship, that gentleman has written a letter to the *Times*, indignantly denying the truth of the assertion, and averring that it was circulated to gratify personal hate, and subserve electioneering purposes. The letter concludes:—

"If I had ever asked any minister, whether whig or tory, for any place of profit for myself or any one connected with me, I think I may venture to say that I should not now be assailed by mere rumour; or that if I had done any act, or uttered any word, which might be construed into a desertion of principle, vague charges would not satisfy those who accuse me of 'selling myself to the tories.' It may possibly save the expectants of a vacancy in the representation of Bath some trouble, for me to state, emphatically, that I never, either from the present or any preceding administration, solicited for myself any place; and that no place, either in or out of England, will be sought by me, or accepted if offered, from or by those now in power."

The Ostler fund amounts at present, we believe, to something like 1,500*l.*, nearly a thousand pounds short of the required sum to effect that individual's liberation.

UNIVERSITY REFORM.—We understand that Mr Christie, M.P. for Weymouth, who last session so ably introduced the question of university reform, will in the ensuing session renew the subject in the shape of a motion for a commission of inquiry.—*Oxford Chronicle*.

The report that her Majesty intends to visit Warwick castle has been denied.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—The *Leeds Mercury* announces that Mr Parker, the member for Sheffield, will not resign his seat. The *Dover Telegraph* says the same with respect to Sir J. R. Reid, M.P. for that borough. The *Newcastle Journal* mentions a rumour that Henry Metcalf, Esq., M.P. for Tyne-mouth, will resign his seat prior to the opening of parliament; and the *Durham Chronicle*, in reference to Sunderland, says, "To set at rest a good deal of speculation as to the future parliamentary representation of the important borough of Sunderland, we may state that Colonel Thompson, the veteran free trader, will unquestionably be brought forward by the liberals at the first vacancy."

SCARCITY OF SILVER.—In the city, and amongst the private and joint-stock banks, the scarcity of

silver has again been very much complained of; the Bank of England, apparently, being unable to afford any supply to meet the current demand. Unquestionably the inconvenience resulting from the circulation of light gold has led to more inquiry for silver; but it is singular that such an absolute scarcity should exist as to compel some of the banks to make purchases.

SIR W. MOLESWORTH ON THE CORN LAWS.—This well-known radical statesman has lately emerged from his retirement, on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Wadebridge Farmers' Club, in that town, on Friday last. The hon. baronet's speech chiefly consisted of recommendations to the farmers present to promote agricultural improvements. The repeal of the corn laws must come, and would, he believed, be ultimately beneficial to all parties. "Be assured," said Sir W. Molesworth, "there is only one permanent settlement, and that consists in a total repeal of the corn laws. A fixed duty may, perhaps, be first proposed and tried, but this will only be a prolongation of the present state of uncertainty. It will give no satisfaction to the advocates of free-trade, and to the farmer it will continue to be productive of most of the evils which I have already mentioned. To the owner of the land, to the landlord, the question of the effect of a repeal of the corn laws on the price of agricultural produce is of much greater importance than to the farmer and tenant. I feel convinced, however, that it would be ultimately and permanently beneficial to him."

ROYAL PROPRIETOR OF THE "TIMES."—After having been so wofully traduced for having mentioned the Duke de Bordeaux with courtesy and respect, we are somewhat soothed by the *Quotidienne's* assertion that the *Times* reckons among its principal "shareholders" the highest personages of the *Cour de Juillet*! Who would have dreamt of it? This beats our unprovoked foe, the *Gazette de France*.—*Morning Post*.

THE CORN CROP.—Messrs Sturge, in their corn circular for the present month, repeat their formerly expressed opinion, that the wheat harvest this year has been a deficient one, and that higher prices and importation of foreign wheat must take place before next harvest.

WESLEYAN EDUCATION.—An address from the Wesleyan Education committee appears in the *Watchman* of Wednesday last. It contains a lucid summary of the grounds on which the obligation resting on all classes of society to make strenuous efforts for the religious education of the youth of the country, is especially incumbent on the Wesleyan community; and gives a brief narrative of what has already been done, in accordance with the recommendation of the last Conference, for the discharge of this duty. An appeal is then pointedly and earnestly made to those who have not yet co-operated with the committee in this great movement. The first list of contributions to the great general fund of £20,000 amounted to the cheering sum of nearly six thousand pounds. That list has now been closed, but a second is in progress, which will appear in due time, and will include those names of donors which have been received since the first was completed.

The fourteenth list of contributions to the National Society has been published. The amount now subscribed exceeds one hundred and thirty-two thousand pounds.

STATISTICS OF EMIGRANTS.—By a parliamentary document printed during the last session, it appears that no fewer than 128,344 persons emigrated from the United Kingdom in 1842, of which number 54,153 sailed for the North American colonies. Out of the aggregation 74,683 embarked from England, 13,108 from Scotland, and 40,553 from Ireland. In the same period (1842), 1,058 persons were assisted to emigrate by funds derived from the poor rate, and 2,341 were assisted by the commissioners of Colonial Lands and Emigration, of which number 713 could neither read nor write; 982 emigrated by means of bounties payable in the colonies. It also appears from the return, which embraces five separate divisions, that £2,300 had been realised in the same year by the sale of lands, which had, as far as expended, been applied to emigration to the same colonies.

AMERICAN SLAVERY.—The *Inquirer* newspaper of the 9th December, and the organ of the unitarian denomination in this country, publishes a very eloquent and forcible address, signed by nearly two hundred ministers, to their American fellow-labourers, on the subject of slavery, now carried on to such an extent in the southern states—with the view of effecting a change in this unchristian and bloody traffic, by an energetic appeal on behalf of the emancipation of the slave, and an earnest endeavour to enlist the whole unitarian ministry of that country in the righteous cause of suffering humanity.

THE MORNING HERALD.—Mr Baldwin, of the *Standard*, has completed the purchase of the tottering—nay, moribund—*Morning Herald*. The sum given, I understand, was 28,000*l.*, the full value according to the opinions of most persons conversant with this species of property; the new editor is to be, I am told, Mr Dudley Costelloe, who, like the recently appointed editor of the *Morning Chronicle*, Mr Andrew Doyle, is an Irishman. Thus we have the only organs among the daily press which support the Peel government, the property of one individual, and the leading writers both from the sister isle, for the editor of the *Standard*, every one is aware, is an Irish Orangeman of the deepest dye.—*Hants Independent*.

On Tuesday, at a court of directors of the East India company, the Rev. Henry Melvill, B.D., late Fellow and Tutor of St Peter's college, Cambridge, was appointed Principal of the East India college at Haileybury.—*Times*.



## PROVINCIAL.

**NORTHERN CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, SILCOATES.**—The above institution was established about twelve years ago, in order to afford a very superior education at a very reasonable rate, to the sons of ministers and missionaries of the independent denomination; accordingly it is supported partly by subscription and partly by fees obtained from the parents of the scholars. In the course of the last few years, a considerable number of the old pupils have become located in Manchester and the neighbourhood, and, actuated by a desire to assist an institution from which they had received so many advantages, they have for that purpose formed themselves into an association, which held its first annual meeting on Tuesday, the 12th instant, at Haywood's hotel, Bridge street, Manchester; Mr W. C. Gill Pendleton in the chair. After dinner, the meeting was addressed by W. H. Sutcliffe, Esq., Messrs W. Himner, J. Hackling, Joseph and James Cockin, and R. Scales, and it was unanimously resolved that that should be the first of a series of meetings in order to bring this valuable institution before the public, and to support, by every means in their power, its interests. The school is conducted on the most admirable principles, and is the only one of the same description in the north of England, and therefore is worthy of cordial support.—*Leeds Mercury.*

**GENERAL EDUCATION.**—The late educational conference is already beginning to produce its fruits. On Monday, the 18th inst., at a meeting of the church and congregation assembling at Salem chapel, York, a committee was appointed to take measures for carrying on the work in connexion with that chapel, and two donations were made of £100 each for that object.

**LATE HOURS.**—At a meeting of clerks, at the Birmingham Polytechnic institution, on Monday last, a resolution was unanimously passed, respectfully urging the merchants, manufacturers, and tradesmen of that town, to close their establishments, when practicable, at seven o'clock.

**INCENDIARY FIRES IN ESSEX.**—A correspondent writes:—"A large fire took place on Friday night, in the neighbourhood of Dunmow, which burnt down all the farm buildings, corn, hay, &c. A very similar one also occurred on Sunday night, at Little Waltham. Where these things will end I know not—matters appears to be ripening to what they were in 1830."

**INCENDIARISM.**—This dreadful crime appears to be on the increase. In the provincial papers we notice accounts of incendiary fires at Navenby, Eakring, Burbrook, Tattershall, Corfe Castle, two at Speen, Harlow, Fritchley, Darfield, Walton, Buckinghamshire, and several other places. So alarming has this crime become in the county of Bedford, from its frequent recurrence, that it is said that a requisition is about to be presented to the high sheriff, to call a public meeting of the magistrates, gentry, and clergy of the county, for the purpose of considering the best means to be adopted for the suppression of the offence, and the detection of offenders.

**ANTI-CORN-LAW MEETING AT BRADFORD.**—A meeting of the friends of free trade was held on Tuesday evening at Bradford. The meeting was very numerously attended. The subscriptions entered into on the occasion greatly exceeded the sum contributed at any similar assemblage in that place, amounting to £1709; the objects of the meeting were supported by individuals belonging to various classes of society, without any distinction of creed or party. A deputation from the council of the Anti-corn-law League were present. The gentlemen who formed that deputation were Colonel Thompson, Messrs Cobden, Ashworth, Moore, &c. A gentleman of conservative politics (Mr W. Rand) took the chair, and addressed the meeting at considerable length, as did Mr Cobden, Mr Moore, and Mr Ashworth. The following are amongst the sums subscribed at this meeting:—C. H. Dawson, £200; Milligan, Forbes, and Co., £200; E. Shipley and Son, £100; S. Smith and Brothers, £100; Titus Salt, £100; James Garnett, £100; H. Leak, £100; John Russell, £50; D. Bateman and Son, £50; the chairman, £50. These subscriptions were announced as doubling, and some of them trebling, and even quadrupling the contributions of the same parties last year. The chairman's was stated to be a new subscription. Other sums, varying from 40s. down to 1s., followed. [The amount has since reached upwards of £2,000.]

**DECLARATION OF EARL HARDWICKE.**—At Earl Hardwicke's annual rent audit and feast, held last week, at the Eagle hotel, Cambridge, the noble earl is reported to have made the following significant declaration:—

"After alluding to the late incendiary fires, he urged upon the farmers the advantage of adopting an improved system of cultivation, by which they might grow a double quantity of corn. He then observed, that there had lately been a great deal of agitation on the subject of the corn laws. For himself, he, in common with Sir R. Peel, and the Duke of Buckingham, was opposed to free trade, but he thought that ultimately free trade principles must prevail. But he conceived the result would not be so disastrous as had been anticipated."

On Friday night a numerously attended anti-corn-law meeting was held at Accrington, at which Messrs Cobden and Moore were present. £177 19s. 6d. was subscribed.

At the free trade demonstration at Macclesfield on Thursday, £130 was subscribed to the League fund. Last year £28 only was raised.

**THE LEAGUE FUND.**—The sum subscribed to the League fund of £100,000, up to the period of our last advice, was—in Manchester, £20,658; Liverpool, about £6,000; Leeds, £2,824; Rochdale, about

£3,000; Halifax, about £2,000; Huddersfield, about £1,800; Bradford, above £2,000; Barnsley, £180; Holmfirth, £140.—*Leeds Mercury.*

**ANTI-LEAGUE MOVEMENT.**—On Friday, a meeting of the Essex Agricultural Protection society was held at Chelmsford. This society has been established by tenant farmers only, who seem roused by the proceedings of the Anti-corn-law League. The chair was taken by Mr Robert Baker, of Writtle. Several gentlemen of great local influence were present, and about six hundred farmers. Among letters of concurrence, from Lord Rayleigh, Sir John Tyrell, Sir G. H. Smith, and other leading protectionists, was one from Sir George Chetwynde, asking for the rules of the society, in order to form one in Warwickshire. It was ostentatiously put forward by the speakers, and repeated, as if some doubt attached to the matter, that the society originated among tenant farmers; and there was as ostentatious a hanging back on the part of the landlords. The chairman and other gentlemen urged several of the usual arguments in favour of agricultural protection; and more than one person asserted it as an established fact that the object of the Anti-corn-law League was to reduce the price of corn and also wages. Among the positions assumed by Mr Baker, was the fact that "there were few in this country who had not at least a sufficiency of bread." There were some cries of "No, no!" and "Yes, yes!" on which he added—"In Essex he knew that that was the case; and, except when thrown out of employ, it was rare that a labouring man had not a sufficiency of bread." A long and argumentative resolution was moved and carried, which declared the object of the society to be, not only to oppose the League, but all measures tending to deprive the agriculturists of due protection. Another resolution proposed a resolution to expose the gross falsehoods of the League through the medium of the press. Mr C. F. Towers, of Weald hall, came forward as the first landlord to subscribe, and contributed £50.

At the Leicester assizes, on the 14th instant, Mary Bowley, aged 24, was charged with having, on the 18th of October, at Aylestone, thrown herself and child into the canal, both of whom were rescued by Wm Stiffe. The prisoner was unmarried, and distress was said to be the cause of the rash attempt. She was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

On Saturday, at the same assizes, no true bill was returned against James Messenger, charged with the murder of his servant-man, James Garner, at Gaddesley.

At Maidstone assizes, last week, Job Lawrence, a child seven years of age, was tried for setting fire to a stack of wheat, the property of Thomas Gillow, a farmer, at Wednesborough, on the 24th October. The boys in the neighbourhood had been making bonfires; the prisoner was detected immediately after he had set fire to the stack; and he did not deny it. According to the recommendation of the judge, the jury acquitted the prisoner, on the ground that his tender years, added to a weakness in his intellect, made him not properly accountable for his actions.

**DARING BURGLARY.**—One of the most daring burglaries of which we ever heard was committed on Friday morning at Brighton. A fishmonger named Best, who occupies a shop and one other room, forming part of the back of Pegg's Royal York hotel, and opening into Pool valley, had saved up £300, which he indiscreetly kept in a small box, in a large chest, in his bed room. About a week ago he received another £100, the rent of a house on the Marine parade, which, with a still greater want of caution, he desired one of his men to place in the box. This the man did in his master's presence—locked the chest, and handed over the key. On Friday morning Best left his shop at six o'clock to go into the fish market; and on his return, in twenty minutes afterwards, he found the locks forced and his money gone. No violence appearing on the outer doors, it is conjectured that the thief had either secreted himself in the building over night, or slipped in early in the morning, when a man came to light the fire. The thief evidently knew well where the money was placed, and the officers are now actively engaged in tracing him out.

**FIRING INTO A MAGISTRATE'S ROOM.**—On the night of Monday last, about half-past ten o'clock, as the family of the Rev. J. W. James, of Robeston Wathan, near Narberth, were retiring to rest, Mr James, according to his usual custom, went into his dressing room, which communicates with his bed room by a passage, and faces the back part of his premises. Mr James was in the act of opening the window shutters for the purpose of ascertaining the state of the weather, when two shots were fired at him; one, a ball, penetrated his right arm, and passed through the muscular part between the elbow and shoulder, and was afterwards found in the room; the other charge was small shot, which took effect upon the shutters only; and at the same instant a third charge, consisting of small shot, was fired into the front bedroom, where Mrs James was, providentially without doing any other injury than smashing the glass. There must have been at least two persons engaged in this dastardly attempt. The Rev. Mr James is a magistrate, and has not only publicly "pronounced" against the popular views entertained in the principality respecting the commutation of tithes, but has taken an active part by committing a great many of the persons who had been apprehended on suspicion of having been concerned in the destruction of the turnpike gates.—*Welshman.*

**A SINGULAR CONFLICT BETWEEN A LION AND A DOG.**—A gentleman in Northallerton has had for some time in his possession a tame lion, which has

always been considered perfectly harmless. A few nights since he broke his chain, and, while perambulating the town, came in contact with a ferocious bull mastiff, the property of a late knight of the cleaver. A battle instantly commenced, when the roaring of the lion and the howling of the dog called forth a large party of all sorts, and, as customary, backers on both sides. "Well done, lion!" "Have at him, Simple," the name of the dog. For some time the victory was doubtful; but at length the dog, by a singular manoeuvre, threw the lion on his back, and commenced a furious grasp at the poor animal's throat, and would soon have despatched him, but he was rescued by the bystanders.—*Yorkshireman.*

**AN ENRAGED ELEPHANT.**—LIVERPOOL, Friday.—Yesterday afternoon these gardens were the scene of a most distressing occurrence, owing to the ferocity of the large elephant, who on gala days is in the habit of promenading the grounds with a host of little folks on his back. Hitherto the animal has exhibited the most wonderful patience and docility; but, as I am informed, an assistant keeper, enraged at some act of fancied insubordination, struck the animal rather severely with a broom which he had in his hand, when, melancholy to relate, in a few minutes, although not witnessed by human eye, the unfortunate man was found dead at the feet of the enraged beast. The body presented a most appalling spectacle, the arms and legs being fractured in several places, the skull cloven, and the entire body crushed to pieces by the animal, who, it would appear, in his rage had repeatedly trampled upon him. Such a fearful instance of animal ferocity has seldom been exhibited. The death of the ill-fated man must be conjectured to have been instantaneous. For nearly an hour neither the proprietor or his keepers dared to venture near the body, the elephant still exhibiting signs of savage determination. They were, however, eventually enabled to rescue the mangled remains, which were removed to an hotel to await the coroner's inquest. At an inquest held upon the remains of the unfortunate sufferer, a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned, with a deodand of 5*l.* upon the elephant.

**LORD MORPETH.**—On Wednesday Lord Morpeth presided at the half-yearly distribution of prizes at the Huddersfield college. At the conclusion of the business of the day a dinner took place; and, on the withdrawal of the cloth, the noble lord's health having been given, he, in returning thanks, said:—"Since the period when we last met together I have been, as you are probably aware, at a considerable distance, not only from the Riding, but from my native country; but, go where I would, I still found myself within reach of Yorkshiremen [loud applause]. I remember I had scarcely landed in the new world when, having to ascertain the nearest way to a house which I wished to reach, I asked the first person I met with a view to show me the path, when, pointing in a particular direction, he said, 'You will find that the gainest way' [loud laughter]. I said, 'I am sure that is not an American word,' and a good honest Yorkshireman he turned out to be [loud applause]. Again, when I was traveling that region of the country that is called the Prairies, which are vast tracts of rich grass land, generally in an unreclaimed state, but fitted, from their natural fertility, for the production of crops of every description, I came to a town round which all the farms seemed to me to be in a peculiarly promising and favourable condition. I inquired about the circumstances of the neighbourhood, and I was told that about that place—the town of Jacksonville—a colony almost entirely of Yorkshiremen had planted themselves; and hence I was glad enough, I assure you, to infer the flourishing state of the crops and farming in the neighbourhood [cheers]. I had the pleasure of paying a visit to one of the most eminent statesmen in America, at his country residence. I mean Mr Clay, and he praised to me the long and able services of his female servant, who turned out to be a Yorkshireman [loud laughter]. Yorkshirewoman I mean [reiterated laughter]. That will remind you that I have been in Ireland as well as America [renewed laughter]. The only lesson I wish she had inculcated on her master, who is a supporter of the American tariff, is, that she had made him a better friend to free trade all over the world [the meeting here rose and cheered most enthusiastically for some time]. I will only trouble you with one more of my Yorkshire-American associations, which is this:—I found several old Yorkshiremen in the city of New York, who, from old recollections, were kind enough to entertain me at a public dinner, and there I was told that the state of New York goes by the name of the empire state of the Union; and all the company who assembled at that dinner were perfectly agreed as to the propriety of our christening the old county of York the empire county of Old England [loud applause].

**CURIOUS INSCRIPTION.**—The following inscription is beautifully engraved in the old English letter on a copper-plate over the gateway of Friends' burial ground, at Burton, near Barnsley, in Yorkshire; and a friend who lives near the spot is of the opinion that the plate was affixed at the date it bears:—

"Anno Domini, 1657.

"Though superstitious minds do judge amiss of this burial place, yet let them know hereby that the scripture saith, 'The earth is the Lord's,' and I say so is this. Therefore being so, and by his people also set apart for the church's use for a burial place, it is as holy or consecrated, and good for that use and service, as any other earth is.

"And it is not without scripture warrant, or example of the holy men of God, to bury in such a place; for Joshua, a servant of the Lord, and commander-in-chief or leader and ruler of the people of God, when he died was neither buried in a steeple-house, nor called a parish church, nor in a steeple-house yard; but he was buried in the border of his inheritance, and on the north side of the Mount Ga-ash, as you may read. See Joshua, chap. xxiv. verses 29, 30.

"And Eliezer, Aaron's son, who was called of the Lord, when he died, they buried him, not in a parish church nor steeple-house yard, but they buried him in the hill of Phineas his son, which was given him in



Mount Ephraim, as you may read, Joshua, chap. xxiv. verse 33.

"And these were no superstitious persons, but beloved of the Lord, and were well buried. And so were they in Abraham's bought field, Gen. chap. xxiii. verses 17-20. though superstitious minds now are unwilling unto the truth to bow, and are offended at such as bury in their inheritance, or bought fields appointed for that use."

## IRELAND.

**THE ARMS BILL.**—Already great bitterness and fierce partisanship are exhibited by the Orange magistracy, in the enforcement of the provisions of the Irish Arms act. At the Macroom (county of Cork) quarter sessions, on Friday, the 15th instant (it was the first held under the act), the tory magistrates acted in a very rude and intemperate manner towards the government magistrate, Mr Gore Jones, merely because he recommended a moderate course of proceeding. The magistrates determined to refuse licenses for arms to all repeal warden, whatever might be their character. Two luminaries of the bench thus expounded the reasons for this decision—"James Callanan applied for the registration of one gun."

"Mr R. Warren: I object to him upon what I conceive to be very good grounds; but if I am required to give my reasons here I will hold my tongue, because I don't want to set the people against me [loud laughter and great clamour]."

"Mr G. Jones: I don't think any decision should be come to in this man's case without a hearing in open court."

"Mr O'Driscoll (to applicant): How do you support—[great clamour on the bench]."

"Mr Warren: Well, then, I will state my objection. [Here the speaker raised his voice to a towering pitch, and struck the bench with his clenched fist.] It is because he is a repealer [laughter and confusion], and a repeal warden [great clamour], and because he collected the repeal rent for O'Connell [great clamour all through the court]."

"Mr G. Jones (to the sub-inspector): Do you know this man?—I do, very well."

"What is his character?—His character is very good. I know him to be a strictly honest, sober, and correct man."

"Mr Warren: Oh, I know the man myself to be a man of excellent character. I have no other objection to him but the one I state."

"Applicant: I don't deny that I am a repeal warden, and I think it no disgrace."

"Mr Warren: I say I have nothing to say against your character but that."

"Mr M. O'Leary: As a magistrate of this county, and sitting on this bench, I must protest against this course [great clamour]. I say it is a perfectly unconstitutional course to adopt towards any man [renewed clamour; coughing, talking, and scraping of feet, on the bench]. I say that you have no right whatever to put such questions, and they are by no means a test by which to judge of a man's fitness or unfitness to keep arms [uproar]. Mr Jones, on addressing the court, was assailed by repeated interruptions, and the most noisy clamour, from the bench. He was followed by Mr Warren, who said—

"Many a nobleman and gentleman of the highest respectability has been deprived of the commission of the peace for a lesser crime—if that were possible [laughter and clamour]—men who never committed a breach of the peace, and who were only charged with having attended meetings where no breach of the peace was committed, or even apprehended; and yet they are to be punished, while here is a man who goes about the country robbing the poor people of their hard earnings for illegal purposes. [Here the speaker became very much excited, his face scarlet, and his language and gesticulation most vehement.] I say this man's gun should be taken from him, when the commission of the peace was taken from noblemen and gentlemen for attending peaceable meetings [laughter and clamour]. I say this man is going about robbing the poor people night and day [loud cries of 'Oh, oh!' and great uproar]. Oh, I did not say you robbed [great laughter], but I know that you—[loud cries of 'Question, question!'] in the midst of which the speaker sat down."

The license was of course refused.—Here is another short example of the way in which the magistrates carry the Arms act into effect. Character, which should be the ruling consideration, they treat as quite irrelevant, and repealer or no repealer is the sole question.

"John M'Auliffe, Mill street."

"Captain Wallis; I object here. Are you a repeal warden?"

"Claimant: I am."

"Mr R. Warren: Reject him."

"Mr M'C. O'Leary: He has an excellent character."

"Claimant: Hear my character before you reject me."

"Mr R. Warren: Others were rejected on the same grounds, and we cannot admit you."

"Captain Wallis: I have no objection to his character further than what I stated."

"Mr R. Warren: We cannot admit him."

"The certificate was refused."

The *Times* justly observes, on the indecent display of political prejudice by the Macroom magistrates—

"It appears to us that no more ruinous course could be taken than that which has been adopted by these magistrates. It is precisely the one most calculated, not only to weaken their official influence with the people, but also to bring the British connexion into hatred and contempt. The Irish Arms bill was essentially a matter of police. Its object was to secure the property and the lives, and not only these, but the characters, of orderly and well-disposed persons from the violence or the treachery of the base and the disaffected. It was intended for the protection of the well-disposed and the peaceable in every grade of society, of every religious creed, of all political opinions. It was the necessary remedy, which experience and prudence alike suggested, for the distractions of a country so unhappy in its social, so divided in its political, relations as Ireland. Every Irishman was entitled to enjoy its advantages—was bound to submit to its conditions. How, then, any set of men, professing to admire justice to their countrymen, could bring themselves to deny a statutable right upon the mere grounds of party feeling, is to us a moral puzzle."

**LANDLORD CRUELTY.**—At the sessions, on Friday, Matthew and Cornelius Sullivan were charged with having rescued a cow, distrained for rent due to Captain O'Driscoll. The cow was distrained in October last by Captain O'Driscoll's driver; but the prisoners would not allow it to be removed. These facts were elicited, in cross-examination, from the witnesses for the prosecution. A year's rent was demanded—£22. Captain O'Driscoll's tenants are in the habit of signing bills for rent, before that rent falls due; because, said the landlord's agent, he pays very heavy "head rents." The prisoners had signed a bill for rent; the bill was not due when the cow was distrained; and Captain O'Driscoll had the money in his pocket at that time! The driver, however, did take some things; he took "only" forty-six loads of potatoes. The driver himself was an auctioneer; he was also a builder; he sold "every six weights" for 8d.; and afterwards got the potatoes himself. He also took a stack of straw. The reason why he distrained was, that the prisoners were "top-dressing" their corn; but he knew that it was by the produce of their corn that they were to meet the bill. The men were acquitted.

**THE STATE TRIALS.**—Notices have been served upon the traversers by the crown solicitor, for the state trials to re-commence on Monday, the 15th of January, when Mr Henn, counsel for the traversers, will move the court of Queen's Bench that the 1st of February be appointed instead thereof.

**SUPPRESSION OF CRIME.**—THE PEASANTRY.—The *Newry Examiner* gives a long and curious detail of the persevering and successful exertions of a few peasants, headed by a repeal wardeh, in arresting a gang of fellows who were committing outrages at Crossmaglen, county of Monaghan, after a severe struggle. In more than one instance it is stated that the police refused to co-operate with the peasantry; but, ultimately, the prisoners were safely lodged in the police-barracks. They were next day brought before a magistrate, James M'Carthy, Esq., who eulogised, in fitting terms, the admirable conduct of the peasantry, who had afforded an example well deserving of imitation all through the country.

**LORD DE GREY AND THE ULSTER ORANGEMEN.**—Early in December the Orangemen of Drumholme, in the county of Donegal, sent an address to the lord-lieutenant, which expressed approval of the naval and military armaments to suppress rebellion—lauded "the noble bearing of the attorney-general" in the state prosecutions—and tendered the services of "seven hundred brave young men" against the rebels; the address modestly describing them "as faithful and brave subjects in Drumholme parish as ever trod the battle field." To this Lord de Grey replied:—"His excellency has received with much satisfaction the address of the inhabitants of Drumholme parish, offering their services to her Majesty in case of need. And his excellency trusts that the loyalty and patriotism of the great majority of her Majesty's subjects, together with the measures already taken by her Majesty's government, will suffice to preserve the peace of the country under any emergency."

**ARMING IN ULSTER.**—A Loughbuckland correspondent of the *Dublin Evening Post* states that a large quantity of arms had been collected in Tanderagee castle, the seat of the Duke of Manchester, from whence they have been distributed amongst the Orangemen of some neighbouring districts. Another correspondent of the same journal mentions that Lord Roden has received a large supply of arms at Tollymore park, which have not yet been distributed.

The *Tipperary Free Press* announces that it is the intention of the "patriots" of South Tipperary to give the liberator another welcome and safe deliverance, on his way to Dublin to stand his trial, in the shape of a repeal banquet.

## SCOTLAND.

**SYMPATHY WITH IRELAND.**—MEETING AT GLASGOW.—On Monday week, in pursuance of a very numerous and respectably signed requisition, a public meeting of the inhabitants of Glasgow, called by the lord provost, was held in the City hall—Mr Turner in the chair. A number of eloquent speeches were delivered on the course pursued by government towards Ireland, and the following resolutions were passed by the meeting unanimously:—"That it is the constitutional right of British subjects to meet for the discussion of grievances, and to petition the legislature for redress of the same; and that all attempts to prevent the free exercise of such rights is not only at variance with the spirit of the constitution, but a tyrannical encroachment upon the people's rights and privileges." "That we regard the physical force suppression of the intended peaceful meeting at Clontarf, by the Peel ministry, as an unconstitutional and uncalled for interference with the liberty of the subject, and the sacred right of public meeting and petitioning, and entitled to the hearty disapprobation of all reformers." "That it is the duty of all classes of reformers, at the present crisis, to come forward and assist the Irish people, by firm and prudent co-operation to vindicate the right of public meeting and free discussion. This co-operation is the more necessary, as there is imminent danger that, should the government succeed in suppressing the right of public meeting in Ireland, they may not hesitate to adopt the same coercive measures in the sister kingdom." It was matter of remark, that all who took part in the proceedings were Scotchmen, although great numbers of the Irish residents were present.

**THE GAME LAWS.**—The *Fife Herald* of Thursday reports that at a justice of the peace court, held at Cupar on the 14th inst., Mr Andrew Hutchison, merchant, Cupar, was brought up under the charge

of having game in his possession at various times and exposing it for sale, without the sanction of a person qualified to kill game, the said Andrew Hutchison not being himself qualified to kill. This prosecution was raised by Mr Adamson, superintendent of police, under the authority of the following clause in 13 Geo. III. cap. 54:—

"And be it further enacted, that every person whatsoever, not qualified to kill game in Scotland, who shall have in his or her custody, or carry, at any time of the year, upon any pretence whatever, any hare, partridge, pheasant, muirfowl, tarmargans, heathfowl, snipe, or quail, without the leave or order of a person qualified to kill game in Scotland; or carrying such hares, or other game, or for having the same in his or her custody, shall for the first offence forfeit and pay the sum of 20s. sterling, and for the second and every subsequent offence the sum of 40s. sterling: And in case of not paying the sum decreed within the space of ten days after conviction by a final judgment, shall suffer imprisonment for six weeks for the first offence, and for three months for the second and every other subsequent offence."

Mr Hutchison being called on for his defence, admitted the facts charged against him, but pleaded ignorance of the law, and stated that had he been aware of his being liable to a penalty for selling game, he would not have done it. Mr Hutchison was fined 20s. In commenting upon this matter, the *Herald* remarks:—

"It appears, that about sixty years ago, a law was placed on the statute-book, the effect of which was, to prevent any person either selling or buying game, or even having it in possession, 'under any pretence whatever,' without the permission of a landed proprietor holding a license to kill. This remarkable law was never, from the beginning, effectually enforced; and, by the influence of common sense and discretion, it has been in entire desuetude for many years past. But common sense and discretion, according to the popular scandal, have seldom been found to stand in the way of Fife lairds; and, we fear, there is no room to doubt that to this unfortunate peculiarity must be ascribed the prosecution and decision of last Thursday. There seems good ground for suspecting that the proceedings we are dealing with form part of a preconcerted and, so to speak, general movement. In Ross-shire there have, within this month or two, been a number of similar cases, and an attempt of the same kind is, we believe, making in East Lothian, where warrants are procured to search the carriers' carts for game, not on the allegation of any particular act of poaching having been committed, but simply for the purpose of searching for game, and making the carrier give the history of all he may have under his trust!"

There are not, it is confidently stated, any hopes entertained of Earl Grey's recovery. The noble Earl never gained strength after his serious illness in the summer, and is now rapidly sinking. His lordship is surrounded by the principal members of his family, and is in perfect possession of all his faculties.

**THE OJIBBEWAY INDIANS AT WINDSOR CASTLE.**—On Wednesday Mr George Catlin, the celebrated North American traveler, introduced to her Majesty, Prince Albert, and the Duchess of Kent, by royal command, at Windsor castle, the party of Ojibbeway Indians lately arrived in this country, for a private performance before the court, prior to their appearing in public at the Egyptian rooms, Piccadilly. The party of Indians consisted of six men—"The Boy," seventy-four years old; a sage; "The Swift-driving Cloud," about fifty, a war chief; "The Flying Gull"; "The Bright Moonlight," a young warrior; "Tobacco," another youth; and a sixth, with an untranslated name, Ne-bet-neuch-quah; besides "The Strong Wind," a half-caste, the interpreter; and three females—Tobacco's young wife, and Ne-bet-neuch-quah's wife, and daughter, ten years old. The warriors and females, when first introduced to the Queen, were attired in full dress, and wearing a profusion of splendid ornaments and large head-dresses of beautiful feathers. Their faces were elaborately painted, and all the males, with the exception of the interpreter, wore a silver ring through their noses, besides a variety of armlets and bracelets. After the eldest chief had been introduced to the Queen, he addressed her Majesty:—"Great Mother, I have been very sorrowful since I left my home, but the Great Spirit has brought us all safe over the great waters, and my heart will now be glad that we can see your face. We are now happy. These are all the words I have to say. My words are few, for I am not very well to-day." The males of the party, previous to the performance, retired to make some alterations in their dress, as it is customary for them not to dance in full costume. Her Majesty and her august mother expressed themselves highly pleased with the performance; likewise Prince Albert, who shook hands with all the party, and, through the interpreter, wished them a safe and happy journey on their return to their native shores. In passing out of the royal residence the attention of Ah-que-wee-zaintz, the chief, was greatly attracted by the scarlet coat and gold lace of the porter, Sykes, evidently imagining him to be, from his splendid livery, either a lord in waiting, or a groom of the bedchamber at least. He shook him warmly by the hand, made half a dozen salaams, again fixed his eyes upon the gold-laced hat, and then departed.

**PATENTS FOR NEW INVENTIONS.**—The following patents, it is expected, will soon be granted:—To Sir Robert Peel, for a new and efficacious way of sweeping by machinery, as exemplified in the income tax. To Drs Newman and Pusey, for an entirely new method of introducing heat into churches. To Lord Brougham, for the application of rotary motion, with the view of obtaining power. To the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for an extension of the use of the screw, so as to augment its pressure. To Daniel O'Connell, for a most effectual method of draining Ireland.—*Punch*.



## Miscellaneous.

There are already above twenty water establishments in different parts of the kingdom—and they are increasing in number daily. Very eminent members of the faculty of physic have embraced the new doctrines, including Drs E. Johnson, Graham, King, Sir Charles Scudamore, Hume, Weatherhead, and many others.

The number of clergy of the episcopal church in the United States has somewhat more than doubled in the last ten years. The number of bishops has increased from twelve to twenty-one in the same time.—*Southern Churchman*.

**PUNNING PRISONERS.**—A petition from the inmates of an American prison was lately presented, praying that the tree of liberty might be planted within the yard, and each one allowed to cut his stick.

**POPULAR ERRORS.**—Sandwich is not famous for its sandwiches. Venetian blinds are not imported from Venice. The captain of a steamer, when at his post, is not a post captain. The sword of justice cannot be made sharp without the application of blunt. It is an error to suppose that the stature of man is diminished, for the lengths men go in the present day were never surpassed. The tallest men are to found in Lankashire. Jerusalem artichokes do not come from Jerusalem. They are not called artichokes because any one who make a hearty meal on them will run the chance of being choked. It is a vulgar error that beer is turned sour by thunder. The fact is, that beer is turned sour by lightning, which does not know how to conduct itself. Home made articles are not always the best; and, indeed, when made at home they are often so mysterious that there is really no making them out.—*Cruikshank's Comic Almanack*.

**DUTY.**—Oh late remembered, much forgotten, mouthing, braggart duty, always owed, and seldom paid in any other coin than punishment and wrath, when will mankind begin to know thee? When will men acknowledge thee in thy neglected cradle, and thy stunted youth, and not begin their recognition in thy sinful manhood and thy desolate old age? Oh ermined judge, whose duty to society is now to doom the ragged criminal to punishment and death, hadst thou never, man, a duty to discharge in barring up the hundred open gates that wooed him to the felon's dock, and throwing but ajar the portals to a decent life? Oh prelate, prelate, whose duty to society it is to mourn in melancholy phrase the sad degeneracy of these bad times in which thy lot of honours has been cast, did nothing go before thy elevation to the lofty seat, from which thou dealest out thy homilies to other tarriers for dead men's shoes, whose duty to society has not begun! Oh magistrate, so rare a country gentleman and brave a squire, had you no duty to society, before the ricks were blazing and the mobs were mad; or did it spring up armed and booted from the earth, a corps of yeomanry, full grown?—*Dickens*.

**THE ALDERMAN GIBBS QUADRILLES.**—Jullien has just completed a new set of quadrilles, which he has called the Alderman Gibbs Quadrilles. We have seen the score, which is carried to a very great length. The movement is principally an *adagio* one; but there is some very rapid fingering towards the end. Several popular airs are introduced into them, such as "I've no money," "Hope told a flattering tale," "A long time ago," "Take your time," "I know a bank," and "I wonder which way the money goes." The Alderman Gibbs Quadrilles will be played in St. Stephen's, Walbrook, as the most appropriate music for the Christmas waits.—*Punch*.

The word *Camarilla*, in Spain, is what popery was with us a hundred years back, a monster which was to devour the people, and against which the people, of course, turn with the ferocity of mastiffs.—*Chronicle*.

The mace, the identical "bauble" which Cromwell ordered to be removed from the table of the House of Commons, is in the possession of the Royal Society, and at their sittings is placed before the president.

**HEREDITARY NOBILITY REJECTED.**—About the year 1836, certain of the English nobility entertaining notions of emigrating to the then rising colonies of Massachusetts, endeavoured to negotiate for such changes in their political constitution as would offer them inducements for removing to America. Amongst other things they required an acknowledgment of their own hereditary right to a seat in the upper house. The following is the answer of the fathers of Massachusetts to this proposal:—"Where God blesseth any branch of any noble or generous family with a spirit and gifts fit for government, it would be a taking of God's name in vain to put such a talent under a bushel, and a sin against the honour of magistracy to neglect such in our public elections. But if God should not delight to furnish some of their posterity with gifts fit for magistracy, we should expose them rather to reproach and prejudice, and the commonwealth with them, than exalt them to honour, if we should call them forth, when God doth not, to public authority." Thus, the proposition for establishing hereditary nobility in Massachusetts was defeated.

**FEMALE CLERKS IN FRANCE.**—As mere clerks, or accountants, young girls are beginning to be preferred to young men in public establishments where no goods are sold nor orders given or received. I could mention one of the leading banking establishments in Paris, in which two daughters, one aged 18 and the other 20, of one of the principal partners, are daily to be seen at the desk from the beginning to the close of business hours. What would a banker's daughter in London think were she to be

compelled daily to sit from ten to five in the banking-house, with the day-book or ledger before her? She would just as soon submit to be placed in the pillory. And in many more establishments, where there is nothing but writing to do, young women will soon be taken in at fixed salaries in the room of young men. Experience proves them to be more steady, more careful, more assiduous in their application to the duties which devolve upon them, than young persons of our sex. Of late, indeed, a considerable number of young women have been employed in several government offices as regular salaried clerks.—*Grant's Paris and its People*.

**CHARACTER OF THE ARISTOCRACY.**—Now let them have a little examination into the character of these landowners. In parliament, which took about half of their time, they found them sitting dumb when charged with any wrong they committed in this law, but their votes were always to be relied on. And when the session was over, they found them going to destroy the game which they had employed a great number of men to preserve for them, whilst they were making laws for the people. They would see a whole column in the *Morning Post* filled with paragraphs that Duke this, the most noble Marquis of that, the Earl of something else, and my Lord somebody else, and everybody else who had the power to do nothing and live idly, were down at so-and-so's seats, and sallied forth on a certain morning, and had a number of men to drive in the game to a place out of which they could not escape, and where it was deemed sport to shoot them. Yet, doubtless, they all did something to sanction this system; for if one of those lords were to appear in Briggate (Leeds), there would be a host of people running after him directly, and each would be showing the utmost anxiety to tell every one who passed him that it was my Lord so-and-so. Thus they worshipped them, and worshipping them they suffered as all those who made to themselves false gods deserved to suffer. They at that meeting were men. He (Mr Bright) was engaged in a very large business, which required a great deal more attention than he was able to devote to it. But he came from his counting house and his family under a solemn conviction that this law, though if it existed through his life he might himself be able to live, yet that it was destroying multitudes of lives, every one of which was as valuable as his own in the sight of God. If they were an aristocracy of trade and commerce, they were at least a working aristocracy, not a dronish one. They thought rather more of the preservation of weavers and the industrious artisans of the population, than of the preservation of pheasants and partridges.—*John Bright*.

**A QUACK DOCTOR.**—In an excellent article in the last number of the *Illuminated Magazine*, entitled "England Sixty years ago," the following tale is told of one of these itinerant worthies:—"On one occasion a great, gawky, lumbering clodhopper thought he had devised a mode of turning the laugh against the doctor. He mounted the stage, and, on being questioned as to his disorder, said very gravely, 'Why, I'm a liar.' 'Sad disorder, sir, but perfectly curable,' said the doctor. 'Well, but (said the man) I've a worser nor that, I've lost my memory.' 'Quite curable, also,' added the doctor; 'but I must make my preparations. Come again after dinner, and I will be ready for you; but pay down five shillings.' The man, who had intended to have his fun gratis, resisted; but the doctor declared he never let any one down from the stage till he had paid something. 'Besides (said the doctor), how can I trust you? You say you are a liar, and have no memory; so you will either break your promise or forget all about it.' A loud laugh from the crowd expressed their acquiescence in the justice of the claim, and the poor devil, *volens volens*, was compelled to lay down the cash. No one supposed he would come again, but the fool still hoped that he might turn the tables, and presented himself at the appointed hour. The doctor received him with great gravity, and, addressing the audience, said, 'Gentlemen may think it a joke, but I assure them, on the honour of a gentleman, that it is a very serious affair; and I hereby engage to return the money if the bystanders do not acknowledge the cure, and that I am fairly entitled to the reward.' The man sat down, was furnished with a glass of water; the doctor produced a box of flattened black pills, and, to show that they were perfectly innocent, affected to swallow three or four himself. He then gave one to the man, who, after many wry faces, bit into it, started up, spitting and sputtering, and exclaimed, 'Why, hang me if it isn't cobbler's wax!' Yes, it is true that the doctor had procured his pills at a neighbouring cobbler's stall. 'There,' said the doctor, lifting up both hands, 'did anybody ever witness so sudden, so miraculous a recovery? He's evidently cured of lying, for he has told the truth instantly; and as to memory! my good fellow (said he, patting him on the back), if you ever forget this, call on me, and I'll return you the money.'

**A GREEK CROWD.**—The whole town turned out at an early hour in holiday costumes, and most beautiful was it to see the peasants in their picturesque homespun white dresses arrive to witness the scene. In a Greek crowd there is no pushing, no fighting, no vulgarity; it is like a stage performance, beautiful to look at, and it is almost incredible to conceive that the grouping is not artificial, and the positions premeditated. I nearly walked my legs off, going about to look at and admire them, and as I sat down on a rock, and basked in a bright sun, on the 20th of November, I said to myself, "Well, after all, it is not wonderful we get attached to all this, in spite of the many English comforts we are deprived of."—*Correspondent of Chronicle*.

**SUBSTITUTE FOR INDIGO.**—The *Morning Post* an-

nounces, that a young Scotchman traveling in the Shand country, adjoining the Burman empire, has met with a plant, used by the natives for dyeing, which is likely to supersede the use of indigo, as it is only a tenth of the price. He has submitted it to the Agri-horticultural society of Calcutta, and it has been pronounced to be a very valuable production—a genuine black vegetable dye.

**GOVERNMENT EDUCATION.**—Popery and the Jesuits are especial objects of detestation with the German liberals, and they do not forget that Metternich, the most wily of all wily ministers, was the man who hit on the grandest discovery in political despotism ever yet made—that of converting national education into the basis and great engine of slavery. When despotic princes began to tremble before the advance of popular knowledge, Metternich only smiled. He called to mind the words of Solomon—"Bring up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." "That," thought he, "which is good for one way, is equally good for another. Bring up a people in any way, and when they are old they will not depart from it." Here, then, is a great political light! Seize the principle—apply it to the nation, instead of letting your enemies, the liberals, apply it. Bend the twig while it is young, and all the powers on earth shall never be able to raise it again." Austria was the first to adopt this grand discovery—the principle of a government education as a national education, and that with a success which caused it to be immediately copied, and carried out with the most conclusive results in Prussia; where, while the unsuspecting liberals of England have been watching to see the growth of a universal knowledge amid the people blow up the Prussian despotism, it has been, by a subtly adopted system, by which the national schoolmasters became half schoolmasters and more than half policemen, perhaps riveted for ever.—*Athenaeum*.

**CHRISTMAS SHOPS.**—The poulterers' shops were still half open, and the fruiterers' were radiant in their glory. There were great, round, pot-bellied baskets of chesnuts, shaped like the waistcoats of jolly old gentlemen, lolling at the doors, and tumbling out into the street in their apoplectic opulence. There were ruddy, brown-faced, broad-girthed Spanish onions, shining in the fatness of their growth like Spanish friars; and winking from their shelves in wanton slyness at the girls as they went by, and glanced demurely at the hung-up mistletoe. There were pears and apples, clustered high in blooming pyramids; there were bunches of grapes, made, in the shopkeepers' benevolence, to dangle from conspicuous hooks, that people's mouths might water gratis as they passed; there were piles of filberts, mossy and brown, recalling, in their fragrance, ancient walks among the woods, and pleasant shufflings ankle deep through withered leaves; there were Norfolk biffins, squab and swarthy, setting off the yellow of the oranges and lemons, and, in the great compactness of their juicy persons, urgently intreating and beseeching to be carried home in paper bags and eaten after dinner. The very gold and silver fish, set forth among these choice fruits in a bowl, though members of a dull and stagnant-blooded race, appeared to know that there was something going on; and, to a fish, went gasping round and round their little world in slow and passionless excitement. The grocers! oh the grocers! nearly closed, with perhaps two shutters down, or one; but through those gaps such glimpses! It was not alone that the scales descending on the counter made a merry sound, or that the twine and roller parted company so briskly, or that the canisters were rattled up and down like juggling tricks, or even that the blended scents of tea and coffee were so grateful to the nose, or even that the raisins were so plentiful and rare, the almonds so extremely white, the sticks of cinnamon so long and straight, the other spices so delicious, the candied fruits so caked, and spotted with molten sugar as to make the coldest lookers-on feel faint and subsequently bilious. Nor was it that the figs were moist and pulpy, or that the French plums blushed in modest tartness from their highly-decorated boxes, or that everything was good to eat and in its Christmas dress; but the customers were all so hurried and so eager in the hopeful promise of the day, that they tumbled up against each other at the door, clashing their wicker baskets wildly, and left their purchases upon the counter, and came running back to fetch them, and committed hundreds of the like mistakes in the best humour possible; while the grocer and his people were so frank and fresh that the polished hearts with which they fastened their aprons behind might have been their own, worn outside for general inspection, and for Christmas daws to peck at if they chose.—*Dickens's Christmas Carol*.

Such has already been the effect of the teetotal principle, that the excise payments of the common brewers have fallen off full one fourth, and the value of all property in breweries has declined one third.

**ADVERTISEMENT.**—Wanted by an aged lady, of a very nervous temperament, a professor, who will undertake to mesmerise all the organs in her street. Salary so much per organ.

**A HINT TO PIANOFORTE PLAYERS.**—We have again and again expressed our regret that the more the powers of the pianoforte have been enlarged and developed by the skill of the manufacturer—the more its tones have been strengthened, mellowed, and enriched by our Broadwoods, Erards, and Collards—the more it has been degraded by public performers into a machine for exhibiting mere manual dexterity. We would not withhold from the Thalbergs, and Liszts, and Dreyschlocks the meed of praise they deserve as wonderful performers, and



even men of genius. But their flexibility of fingers (though it may have made their fortunes) has been a will-o'-the-wisp that has led them astray from the path to true greatness in their art. Liszt, in particular, has the qualities of mind and of heart, which, had he not added to them the dexterity of an Indian juggler, might have made him another Beethoven. As it is, his fame will die with his fingers. But this is a lesser evil than the destruction of good piano-forte playing among our amateurs. It is pleasant enough to hear Thalberg and Liszt dart like lightning through their rocket-like flights of double demisemiquavers, but then every aspiring damsel that hears them must do the like. The music of Mozart, of Dussek, of Hummel, even of Beethoven, is thrown aside as something below the vaulting ambition of our young lady pianists. They will not condescend to play anything that they can play, and they thus make themselves and their pianos one of the standing nuisances of domestic and social life.—*Morning Chronicle.*

AN INTERVIEW WITH THOMAS CARLYLE.—A word about Thomas Carlyle, who is probably an object of greater interest to Americans than any other living author. I received a very characteristic note one evening from this great literary nondescript, informing me that I "would be very welcome to him the next day at two, the hour at which he became accessible in his garret." His home was more than two miles from my lodgings in Trafalgar square, and I took an omnibus nearly to the place. He resides in a neat little two-storey brick house in Chelsea, one of the environs of London, on the banks of the Thames. His housekeeper showed me at once to his "garret," and a very respectable garret it was too; the ragged poets of the Johnsonian age would have danced to get into such an airy well-furnished apartment. He received me very cordially, and I sat down, and began—shall I say it?—to stare at him; for I assure you, Carlyle is a man to be stared at—such another is not to be seen every day. Just imagine a large, robust, broad-shouldered Scotchman, with grey eyes, attired in a long black coat, such as is generally worn by the Methodist clergy, and poring over a German tome, and you have a considerable idea of our "great brother man." If you had not heard his name, you would know him as soon as he opened his lips; for he talks just as he writes. He gives us the same assortment of obsolete terms, picturesque phrases, outlandish epithets, and long German compounds, all mingled in a singularly uncouth, but at the same time singularly impressive style. I have been frequently asked if Mr Carlyle's style appeared to be natural or affected; I am disposed to think that at first it was an affectation; but he has used it so long that the mannerism has now become natural. After enjoying a delightful conversation with him, he took up his hat and cane, and we walked up to London. All the way he talked in his own peculiar style, with a humour and a broadness of Scotch accent that kept me laughing in spite of myself. He frankly confessed himself entirely ignorant of America, although his miscellaneous works were first collected here, and he has now five readers on this side of the Atlantic to one in England. About the time when I saw Mr Carlyle, the outbreaks in the manufacturing districts were exciting great alarm; and after he had descended at some length on the Manchester operatives, whom he styled "great dumb Saxons, full of old Norse ferocity," I spoke of the happy condition of the labouring classes in our own democratic country. "Oh yes," said he, "you may talk about your democracy, or any other cracy, or any kind of political rubbish; the true secret of happiness in America is, that you have got a deal of land with very few people." His remark was in the main true; and the great mass of evils in England, with her bread-taxes, and sliding-scales, and parish workhouses, and trades' unions, are directly traceable to her enormous population. I was especially struck, during Mr Carlyle's conversation, with a short reminiscence of his early admiration for Robert Burns—how he used to creep over into the churchyard of Dumfries, when a little boy, and find the tomb of the poet, and sit and read the simple inscription by the hour. "There it was," said he, "in the midst of poor fellow-labourers and artisans, the name—Robert Burns!" At noon, at noon, and at eventide, he loved to go and read that name, so dear to every lover of nature, so especially dear to a peasant boy of Scotland like himself. I endeavoured to protract our conversation by walking as slow as possible; but when we had arrived at the Green park, he was called in another direction by an engagement, and I bade him a cordial farewell.—*New York Spectator*, Oct. 28, 1843.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS ACT.—The uncertainty of the law affecting the rights of voters and their annual registration, so much complained of under the Reform act, from the conflicting decisions of the revising barristers, will now be annually diminished by the operation of the Registration of Voters act. The decisions of the court of Common Pleas, in cases of appeal, will every year render the law both more simple and more certain. Their decisions during the present term will settle many points, which were previously in a state of incertitude; depending as they did upon the peculiar view taken by the revising barrister who happened to be appointed; which will no longer be the case, as every barrister will in future be bound by the decisions of the court on points upon which they have delivered their judgment. The following points, referring to cities and boroughs, have been decided by the court during the present term:—1. That any number of rooms in a building, such rooms being each of £10 annual value, and let separately to different occupiers, is sufficient to confer a qualification. 2. That

the names of such occupiers, being inserted in the rate book jointly with that of the landlords, is sufficient rating, and the payment of the rates by the landlords, is sufficient payment on the part of such occupiers. 3. A servant occupying a house not used for the purpose of his employer's business, but occupied by him for his own use, the rent being paid by him in his services, is held to be the tenant, and entitled in respect of such occupation. 4. The payment of rates by the landlord, in consideration of services performed by the occupier, who is rated, is held to be sufficient payment by the occupier himself. 5. A cowhouse or stable, of sufficient value, will give a qualification. 6. Property situated in a borough, and of description that will not give a qualification for the borough, will, if it be such as is required for county voters, confer on the owner the right of voting for the county. 7. In cases of successive occupation of different premises, the voter must have all such premises as are required to make up the twelve months' occupation inserted in the list of voters.

### Religious Intelligence.

WADEBRIDGE.—Mr E. Bowden, of Lostwithiel, Cornwall, has recently received and accepted an invitation from the Congregational church, Wadebridge, to become their minister; and has entered upon his duties.

COLERAINE.—On Wednesday, Nov. 29th, Mr H. J. Heathcote (formerly of Spring hill college, Birmingham) was ordained to the pastorate of the independent church. On the preceding Sabbath a discourse, preparatory to the solemn engagements of the week, was delivered at the congregational chapel, by Mr Heathcote; and, on the two following evenings, meetings were held for special prayer for a blessing on the church and pastor, and for the divine presence throughout all the subsequent proceedings; that on Monday in the adjacent town of Port Stewart; and that on Sunday, in Coleraine. On Wednesday morning the ordination took place. On Thursday evening, Nov. 30, a tea meeting, on behalf of the Congregational Home mission, was held in the Town hall; when John Boyd, Esq., M.P., took the chair. About two hundred individuals were present. The meeting was addressed by the following ministers:—W. S. Eccles, T. Hodgins, W. McGill (presbyterian), R. G. Jones, Dr Urwick, J. D. Smith, S. Shaw, and H. Porter (presbyterian), in a succession of speeches full of deep and impassioned interest. On Friday evening, December 1, a sermon was preached in the congregational chapel by Mr J. D. Smith, independent minister, in aid of the funds of the Congregational Home mission; and on the following Sabbath, Mr T. Hodgins delivered three discourses—one in the morning, at the independent chapel; one in the afternoon, at the Town hall; and one in the evening, at the baptist chapel.

CLAYTON, ESSEX.—On Tuesday evening, the 5th inst., Mr H. Bromley, minister, preached at the opening of a neat little village chapel in the adjoining parish of Arkesdon. There has, for upwards of twenty years, been a Sabbath evening lecture in the village, as often as assistance could be procured. The barn, or out-building, in which the service was held, being used during the week for the stowage of goods, the removal of these every time was found very inconvenient. The owner of the place, an aged and esteemed member and officer of the church, had long been looking out for a site on which to erect an appropriate room. A freehold cottage and garden were recently sold, which he purchased. He has since reared, entirely at his own cost, the plain but suitable structure which has now been opened for religious worship. Mr J. H. Hopkins, minister of Newport, who joins with Mr Bromley in carrying on the lecture, also assisted at the opening. The room, which will comfortably seat fully 100 persons, was much crowded, and the interest excited appeared considerable. The room will forthwith be, in some way, legally secured for permanent appropriation to the purposes for which it has been raised.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Mr Henry Christopherson, late of Stepney college and the university of London, has received and accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to the office of co-pastor with Mr G. Sampson, minister of New Court chapel in this town.

POPLAR.—On Lord's-day, the 10th inst., two sermons were preached in Trinity chapel, Poplar—in the morning by Mr George Smith, and in the evening by Dr Reed; when collections were made, amounting to the sum of £139 17s. 11d., in aid of the fund for erecting school-rooms, for daily and Sabbath instruction, in connexion with the congregation assembling in that place of worship.

HASTINGS.—On Saturday last, a deputation from the members and congregation of the Croft Independent chapel, Hastings, waited on Mr Wm Davis, to present him with a purse of gold, as a memorial, expressive of their esteem and regard for his services, connected with their value of his character and consistency, as minister of the gospel, which under the blessing of God has continued for the past twenty-five years.

RECOGNITION OF MR JAMES LYON.—On Tuesday week the above gentleman was set apart to the office of co-pastor, in conjunction with Mr J. Arundel, at Union-street chapel, Southwark. The services were commenced by reading appropriate portions of Scripture, and prayer by Mr W. P. Lyon, of Albany chapel; after which Mr John Burnet, of Camberwell, delivered an interesting discourse on the prophesying of the two witnesses. Mr George Clayton received from Mr John Arundel satisfactory answers to inquiries

which he made as to the providential circumstances which had led to the co-pastorship; and from Mr James Lyon, as to the motives which had induced his acceptance of the unanimous invitation, and the purposes and determination of his mind regarding the manner of his discharging the duties devolving upon him. Dr Bennett offered, with great solemnity, the special prayer for the elected pastor. Dr Morison delivered an admirable and most effective charge; and Dr Raffles addressed the church in a solemn and impressive manner, from the words "Take heed how ye hear." In the afternoon, about 100 friends sat down to dinner at the Bridge-house Hotel, Southwark. The usual rule was on this occasion departed from, and a considerable number of Christian ladies, principally of the Union-street congregation, honoured the assembly by their presence. Several ministers were present, among whom were Dr Raffles, Dr Bennett, Dr Jenkyn, Dr Allott, Mr Aldis, Mr Seales, Mr Adams, Mr J. W. Richardson, &c. &c. Mr J. Lyon presided on the occasion. Various addresses were delivered, and the proceedings were of a very gratifying character.

PROVIDENCE CHAPEL, CHATHAM.—On Lord's day, December the 17th, three farewell sermons were delivered by W. Duggan, the celebrated black native preacher, from Spanish town, Jamaica, who, it is expected, will leave, in a few weeks, the shores of England for his native country. Mr Duggan's increasing popularity in this neighbourhood, as a plain and powerful preacher of the cross, was fully attested by the crowds of persons of the different religious persuasions who eagerly flocked to hear him; and on Sabbath evening the place of worship was so besieged that many were compelled to hasten to other sanctuaries, admission being impracticable. The services throughout the day were truly delightful and impressive. On the following Monday a public tea meeting was held in the above place; the profits of the tea are to be appropriated to the patriotic object of Mr Duggan's mission amongst us. Several excellent addresses were delivered on the nature and the advantages of Christian union. The parting address of our much esteemed brother excited the liveliest interest—it was fraught with deep solemnity and touching pathos—his soul glowed with Christian affection, and his heart was big with gratitude for all the kindnesses shown him by Christian friends in this town. At the close of this interesting service the majority of the congregation flocked around him, from the lisping child to the hoary head, anxious to take the descendant of much injured Africa by the hand, and bid him farewell. Our fervent and united prayer to Almighty God is, that the winds and the waves may bear him safely home to the bosom of his family, and that of his important charge, and that we may meet our Jamaica brethren in that blissful eternity where the pang of separation is unknown.—*Correspondent.*

MISSIONARY TO JAMAICA.—On Thursday, the 14th inst., Mr G. P. Evans, late student of the Bristol Baptist college, was set apart for missionary labour in the island of Jamaica, at Broadmead Chapel, Bristol. The following ministers residing in the city were engaged in the service:—Mr E. Probert commenced by reading and prayer; the introductory discourse, grounded on Matt. xxviii. 20 (the latter clause), was delivered by Mr E. Huxtable, classical and mathematical tutor of the college; the questions were proposed by Mr G. H. Davis; the ordination prayer was offered up by Mr Thomas Winter; and a charge was given, from Ephesians iii. 8, by Mr Thomas S. Crisp. William Lucy (independent) closed the service by prayer. A large and attentive auditory assembled on this interesting occasion.

PLYMOUTH.—A new baptist chapel will shortly be built in the central part of this town, by the baptist congregation which attend at How street chapel. The liberal sum amounting to £2223 has been raised by local subscription towards the purchase of the land intended for the erection of the chapel—of this amount, we are informed, two gentlemen alone have contributed £1,000. The respected minister, Mr S. Nicholson, of How street chapel, will be the minister of the new chapel. This will prove a great advantage to the members of the baptist connexion, residing in this town and vicinity.

NEW CHAPEL OPENED.—On the 30th and 31st of October last the new independent chapel at Llangefni, in the Isle of Anglesea, was opened for public worship. The Sabbath before the meeting, two sermons were delivered by Mr D. Davies, the minister of the place. On Monday evening, at six o'clock, Mr W. Roberts, of Llanddeasant, commenced by reading the Scriptures and prayer. Messrs Edwards, of Ebenezer, and Parry, of Conway, preached. On Tuesday, at six in the morning, Mr Griffith Jones, of Llanberis, commenced; Messrs Parry, of Salem, and Davies, of Moelfro, preached. At ten, Mr H. Rees, of Pentraeth, commenced; Messrs O. Thomas, of Talyswin, and W. Thomas, of Dwygyfyllchi, preached. At two, Mr Roberts, of Salem, commenced; Messrs Jones, of Hermon, W. Griffith, of Holyhead, and W. C. Williams, of Carnarvon, preached. At six, Mr W. Roberts commenced, and Messrs O. Thomas and W. C. Williams preached. Early in the morning the town presented an animated scene, from the number of strangers arriving from many parts of the island and neighbouring churches. The congregation was respectable, and too large for the chapel. The building is considered the cheapest and the finest in the island, and it is humbly hoped this place of worship may prove for the glory of God and the salvation of many souls.

BODMIN.—Mr T. Lander, of Torpoint, Cornwall, has accepted a unanimous invitation to the Countess of Huntingdon's chapel, Bodmin, and intends entering on his new pastorate with the commencement of the new year.



**HAMBLEDON, BUCKS.**—Mr J. Spencer, late of Caw-sand, Cornwall, has recently accepted a unanimous invitation to the pastorate over the independent church at Hambledon, Bucks, and has entered on his labours with encouraging prospects of success.

**LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.**—The directors of this institution have issued an appeal to the public for subscriptions to purchase a new vessel for the South Sea Islands. "They are happy in saying that the juvenile portion of their constituents are responding in a very prompt and generous manner to their appeal throughout the country—and, to allow their friends time for their efforts, they have postponed the period for remittances from the 8th to the 20th of January next."

**LEEDS.**—Mr James Hughes Morgan, student of Airedale college, has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to become the minister of the independent church and congregation, worshipping at Marshall street chapel, Holbeck, Leeds.

**PATELEY BRIDGE, YORKSHIRE.**—Mr Joseph Mason Calvert, student of Airedale college, having accepted a unanimous invitation from the independent church and congregation at Pateley Bridge, Yorkshire, enters upon his duties on the first Sabbath in February.

**TAUNTON.**—Mr Henry Quick, late assistant minister at Stepney meeting, London, has received and accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to become the pastor of the newly-formed independent church, assembling in North street, Taunton, Somerset, and will enter upon his labours the first Sabbath in the new year. A large and handsome chapel is in the course of erection, in the ancient gothic style, and will be opened (D.V.) in the spring of the year. It is situated in a densely populated neighbourhood, where there is every prospect of usefulness and success. The congregation is now overflowing in the temporary place of worship, and the Sabbath school is large and increasing. This church originated in a secession from that assembling in Paul's meeting, which was occasioned by the failure of an attempt to place the management in that church on a more scriptural basis, and in accordance with the principles adopted and advocated by the Congregational Union of England and Wales. After every legitimate and Christian effort had been made, but without effect, the seceders quietly withdrew, and were formed into a separate church, on true independent principles, by Dr Payne of Exeter college. It is gratifying to reflect that, in the large and populous town of Taunton, containing fourteen thousand inhabitants, there is ample room for the efforts and influence of two large dissenting congregations; and as they are at a sufficient distance one from the other to prevent collision, it is hoped the great Head of the church will make the event redound to his glory and the diffusion of the truth as it is in Jesus.

#### BIRTH.

Dec. 19, at Chigwell, the lady of EDMUND C. BUXTON, Esq., of a daughter.

#### MARRIAGES.

Dec. 14, at the Friends' meeting-house, Darlington, ISAAC BIGNLAND, linen draper, Liverpool, to MARIA, second daughter of Wm. BACKHOUSE, Esq., banker, of the former place.

Dec. 20, at the Weigh-house chapel, by Mr Thomas Binney, the pastor, Mr JOHN WISEMAN, of Grange road academy, Bermondsey, to JANE, fifth daughter of the late Mr William FARMER, of Aldermanbury.

Dec. 20, at the Independent chapel, Marple bridge, near Manchester, Mr JOSHUA PLATT, of Dower Fold, to MARY, second daughter of Mr James WOOD, of Broadstone, Derbyshire.

Dec. 22, at Argyle chapel, Bath, by Mr Wm. Jay, the pastor, Mr THOMAS SAUNDERS, to Miss CHARLOTTE MORRIS, both of Bath.

#### DEATHS.

Dec. 10, at Hastings, at the advanced age of 90 years, Mrs CLOSE, relict of Mr Close, and mother of Mr Francis Close, incumbent of Cheltenham.

Nov. 14, suddenly, at Concord, near Dry Harbour, Saint Ann's, Jamaica, RACHAEL HANNAH, the infant daughter of Mr Thos Henry CLARKE, minister of the Gospel.

Dec. 14, after a long illness, in the faith and hope of the Gospel, MARY, eldest daughter of Mr Dryden Smith, Gent., formerly of the Manor house, Sherington, Bucks, and the much beloved wife of Mr John Morris, late of Olney, now minister of Webb street Chapel, Bermondsey New-road, London.

At Narramore House, near Moreton, Dec. 16, after a long illness, borne with christian resignation, PETER FABIAN SPARKE, Esq., of Ashburton, Devon, aged 71 years. The deceased, for a great number of years, was a constant attendant at the Independent chapel at Ashburton, of which church he was a member. In him the poor found a benevolent friend, and to society at large he was a man greatly beloved. He was of the firm of Tozer, Sparke, and Co., extensive woollen manufacturers of the above town.

Dec. 16, at Congleton, Cheshire, after a few days illness, Mr W. HILDITCH GER, student of Airedale college, Bradford, Yorkshire.

Nov. 19, at Basingstoke, Mr SAMUEL HAYDEN, for many years a consistent member of the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel.

Dec. 19, ELIZABETH BARBARA BULWER LYTTON, relict of the late General Bulwer, of Heydon Hall, Norfolk, and daughter and sole heiress of the late Richard Warburton Lytton, of Knebworth Park, Herts.

Dec. 21, at his residence, Gibraltar-place, Chatham, Mr J. STEPHENS, solicitor, aged 74 years.

Lately, at Long Bay, in the parish of St Philip, COONAH LORD, Barbadoes, at the advanced age of 109. She retained all her faculties to the last. Has had 9 children—101 grand, 100 great-grand, and 34 great-great grandchildren.

### Trade and Commerce.

#### LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, Dec. 22.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV, cap. 85:—

The Baptist chapel, Whitbourne, Wiltshire.

Brunswick chapel, Ecclesall Bierlow, Sheffield.

#### BANKRUPTS.

BALLARD, JOHN, Maidstone, brazier, Jan. 2 and 23; solicitors, Messrs Hicks and Co., Bartlett's buildings, and Mr J. Case Maidstone.

CARPENTER, WILLIAM, Southampton, stationer, Jan. 6, Feb. 2; solicitor, Mr Parker, St Paul's churchyard.

HADLEY, MICHAEL, Walsall, Staffordshire, chemist, Jan. 5 and 30; solicitors, Messrs Price and Co., Wolverhampton.

LAWRENCE, JOHN, Birmingham, spirit merchant, Jan. 3, Feb. 3; solicitors, Mr Knight, Worcester, and Mr A. Harrison, Birmingham.

MUNN, EDWARD, late of Stanhope terrace, Hyde park, corn chandler, Jan. 6 and 30; solicitor, Mr W. Tatham, 22, Throgmorton street.

WHITLEY, JOHN, Liverpool, surgeon, Jan. 10 and 31; solicitors, Messrs Birket and Foster, Liverpool, and Messrs Vincent and Co., Temple, London.

#### SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

KING, ALLAN, Canon mills, Edinburgh, mill master, December 27, January 17.

NATREN, ANDREW, late of Newburgh, baker, December 28, January 20.

M'NICOL, JAMES, and M'NICOL, DANIEL, Johnstone, Renfrewshire, cotton merchants, December 29, January 19.

WATSON, DAVID, Qatbridge, spirit dealer, December 27, January 18.

Tuesday, Dec. 26th.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the 6th and 7th William IV, cap. 85:—

The Baptist chapel, Shadbroke, Suffolk.

#### BANKRUPTS.

BERKELEY, WILLIAM, Union wharf, Narrow street, Limehouse, coal merchant, Jan. 4, Feb. 6; solicitor, Mr C. Jordonson, 2, St Mary-at-hill.

CHAMBERLAIN, WILLIAM, Peckham, Surrey, linen draper, Jan. 5, Feb. 2; solicitors, Messrs Sole, Aldermanbury.

CORNISH, JOHN, Bridport, Dorsetshire, painter, Jan. 11 and 31; solicitors, Mr Edwin Nicholls, Bridport, Mr George Brace, 24, Surrey street, Strand, London, and Mr Stogden, Exeter.

DOBSON, JOHN, Old Gravel lane, Ratcliff highway, ship carpenter, Jan. 5, Feb. 2; solicitors, Messrs Hughes and Co., 17, Bucklersbury.

EVERSHED, RICHARD, Pulborough, Sussex, timber merchant, Jan. 12, Feb. 8; solicitors, Messrs Hill and Heald, Throgmorton street, London; and Mr Daintrey, Petworth.

HANCOCK, THOMAS, Canterbury, coach smith, Jan. 4, Feb. 2; solicitors, Messrs Richardson and Talbot, Bedford row, and Messrs Sankey and Sladden, Canterbury.

HOLDEN, JAMES, Mornington crescent, Hampstead road, builder, Jan. 5, Feb. 6; solicitor, Mr Jones, Church court.

HALL, MICHAEL, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire, farmer, Jan. 10, Feb. 6; solicitors, Mr E. K. Jarvis, Hinckley, and Mr W. Henry Reece, Birmingham.

HICKINBOTTOM, GEORGE, Burbage, Leicestershire, baker, Jan. 10; solicitor, Mr W. H. Reece, Birmingham.

JENKINS, JOHN, 11, Symond's street, Chelsea, cowkeeper, Jan. 10, Feb. 14; solicitor, Mr Dickinson, St Martin's place, Charing cross.

MORRIS, THOMAS, Badajos cottages, and Salamanca place, Hertford road, and Mortimer road, De Beauvoir square, Hackney, builder, Jan. 10, Feb. 8; solicitor, Mr Trott, Crown court, Threadneedle street.

NEWTON, JOSEPH, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, locksmith, Jan. 6, Feb. 3; solicitor, Mr Smallwood, Birmingham.

PRINGLE, WILLIAM, Morpeth, Northumberland, carrier, Jan. 10, Feb. 8; solicitors, Mr Robert Busby, Alnwick, and Messrs Cox and Stone, 33, Poultry, London.

THOMPSON, ROBERT, Strood, Kent, draper, Jan. 6, Feb. 2; solicitor, Mr T. M. Cattlin, 39, Ely place, Holborn.

WELLS, ANTHONY, Wickford, Essex, surgeon, Jan. 6, Feb. 2; solicitor, Mr Edward Lambert, 4, Raymond buildings, Gray's inn.

WEBB, CHARLES, Oxford, apothecary, Jan. 16, Feb. 2; solicitors, Messrs Cook and Sanders, 1, New inn, Strand.

#### BRITISH FUNDS.

No very large transactions, during the past week, have to be reported. The English stocks were very firm on Saturday, and money was easy, although the bills falling due on Monday had to be met.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 per cent. Consols	96	95½	96½	96	—	95½
3 per cent. Reduced	96½	96½	96½	96½	—	96½
3½ per cent. Reduced	102½	102½	102½	102½	—	102½
New 3½ per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long Annuities	12½	12½	12½	12½	—	12½
Bank Stock	183½	183½	—	183½	—	183
India Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills	58pm	56pm	60pm	58pm	—	58pm
India Bonds	—	—	—	76pm	—	74pm

#### FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	—	Mexican	31½
Belgian	103½	Peruvian	—
Brazilian	73½	Portuguese 5 per cents	—
Buenos Ayres	29½	Ditto 3 per cents	—
Columbian	11½	Russian	116
Danish	—	Spanish Active	20½
Dutch 2½ per cents	55½	Ditto Passive	4
Ditto 5 per cents	99½	Ditto Deferred	11½

#### RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	56	London and Brighton	42½
Birmingham & Gloucester	62	London & Croydon	15½
Blackwall	58	London and Greenwich	5½
Bristol and Exeter	63	Ditto New	—
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	—	Manchester & Birm.	—
Eastern Counties	10½	Manchester and Leeds	97
Edinburgh and Glasgow	—	Midland Counties	85
Great North of England	—	Ditto Quarter Shares	26
Great Western	94	North Midland	89
Ditto New	58	Ditto New	—
Ditto Fifths	—	South Eastern and Dover	34½
London and Birmingham	230	South Western	7½
Ditto Quarter Shares	—	Ditto New	—

#### MARKETS.

MARK LANE, FRIDAY, Dec. 22.

Our market has been pretty liberally supplied with wheat, flour, barley, and oats, this week. We experienced a good, but not a brisk, sale for wheat, barley, oats, and all grain to-day, at Monday's prices. The business done was not extensive, the market having the holiday character usual at this period. No market on Monday, it being Christmas day.

Wheat, Red New	48 to 54	Malt, Ordinary	42 to 52
Fine	54 to 59	Pale	54 to 58
White	48 to 60	Rye	34 to 37
Fine	58 to 63	Peas, Hog	28 to 31
Flour, per sack	42 to 50	Maple	30 to 31
Barley	26 to 32	Boilers	3½ to 34
Malt, New	34 to 35	Beans, Ticks	2½ to 30

Beans, Pigeon	30 to 33	Wheat	19s. 0d.
Harrow	29 to 33	Barley	6 0
Oats, Feed	17 to 21	Oats	8 0
Fine	20 to 22	Rye	10 6
Poland	20 to 22	Beans	10 6
Potato	19 to 23	Peas	9 6

#### WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR DEC. 22.

Wheat	50s. 9d.	Wheat	51s. 3d.
Barley	32 0	Barley	32 0
Oats	18 6	Oats	18 10
Rye	30 0	Rye	30 2
Beans	31 6	Beans	32 0
Peas	32 4	Peas	33 5

#### DUTY ON FOREIGN CORN.

Wheat	19s. 0d.
Barley	6 0
Oats	8 0
Rye	10 6
Beans	10 6
Peas	9 6

#### AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.

Wheat	51s. 3d.
Barley	32 0
Oats	18 10
Rye	30 2
Beans	32 0
Peas	33 5

#### SEEDS.

Linseed	per qr	Clover	per cwt
English, sowing	50s. to 60s.	English, red	46s. to 65s.
Baltic, ditto	—	Ditto, white	—
Ditto, crushing	35 to 37	Flemish, pale	44 to 52
Medit. & Odessa	36 to 38	Ditto, fine	60 to 90
Hempseed, small	35 to 38	New Hamb., red	63 to 68
Large	—	Ditto, fine	60 to 92
Canary, new	58 to —	Old Hamb., red	42 to 54
Extra	60 to —	Ditto, fine	50 to 90
Caraway, old	—	French, red	50 to 70
New	57 to 62	Ditto, white	—
Ryegrass, English	—	Coriander	15 to 20
Scotch	—	Old	—
Mustard	per bushel	Rapeseed	per last
Brown, new	12 to 18	English, new	25½ to 26½
White	10 to 12	Linseed cakes	—
Trefoil	—	English	9½ to 10½
Old	14 to 22	Foreign	5½ to 6½
Tares, new	4 to 6	Rapeseed cakes	5½ to 5½

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Dec. 25.

Being Christmas day, nothing to report. Hops generally are scarce.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Dec. 25.

Although a holiday, there was a fair average number of buyers. The beef trade was steady, maintaining last week's prices. Sheep were scanty in number, as also were pigs. Scarcely any calves, and no foreign stock, on offer.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).  
Beef ..... 3s. 0d. to 4s. 0d. | Veal ..... 3s. 2d. to 4s. 6d.  
Mutton ..... 3 2 to 4 8 | Pork ..... 3 2 to 4 4

Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday 402	150	100	350
Monday 1,014	8,190	8	60

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Dec. 25.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.			
Inferior Beef	2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d.	Inf. Mutton	2s. 8d. to 3s. 0d.
Middling do	3 10 to 3 0	Mid. ditto	3 2 to 3 6
Prime large	3 0 to 3 2	Prime ditto	3 8 to 4 2
Prime small	3 2 to 3 4	Veal	3 4 to 4 4
Large Pork	2 8 to 3 5	Small Pork	3 4 to 4 2

POTATOES, BOROUGH, Monday, Dec. 25.

The supply continues to be moderate; the demand for the best samples from all countries is great, and especially for the reds, which have gone off freely at last quotations. There is a slight advance in those from Scotland and Devonshire, the supply from those districts being limited. There appears a general firmness in the market.

York reds .. per ton	60s. to 80s.	Guernsey whites	—s. to —s.
Devon do	60 to 65	Kent and Essex do	50 to 55
Scotch do	60 to 65	Wisbeach	— to 55

#### WOOL.

More doing in combing wools, and at higher prices. Foreign wool steady in value, and in firm request considering time of year.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Dec. 23.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Coarse Meadow	50s. to 60s.	New Clover Hay	70s. to 100s.
New ditto	—	Old ditto	—
Useful old ditto	65 to 72	Oat Straw	26 to 28
Fine Upland do	75 to 80	Wheat Straw	28 to 30

COAL EXCHANGE, Dec. 25.

Stewart's, 20s. 3d.; Hetton's, 20s. 3d.; Lambton's, 20s. 3d.; Braddyll's Hetton's, 20s. 3d. Ships arrived this week, 176.

GROCERIES, Tuesday, Dec. 26.

TEA.—There is but little doing. Common Congous are 1s. to 1s. 0½d. per lb. It is most probable that some public sales will be advertised early in January next.

TALLOW.—St. Petersburg Yellow Candle is 4½s. 6d. to 4½s. per cwt. The market still wears a heavy appearance.

### Advertisements.

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"In addition to the usual information contained in almanacks, it embraces a mass of intelligence illustrative of the complete suffrage movement, elaborate articles upon the present state of our parliamentary representation, striking illustrations of the results of our exclusive system of legislation, and a great amount of information which must be acceptable to all, whether complete suffragists or not. The Almanack is very nicely printed, is very cheap, and is compiled and published under the sanction of the National Complete Suffrage Union."—*Worcester Chronicle*.

"We hail the appearance of this publication with pleasure, both for its own intrinsic merits and the evidence which it affords that the cause of complete suffrage is advancing steadily in strength and consideration. The work, though small, is very comprehensive."—*Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle*.

"Every friend to perfect representation should procure a copy of this cheap and well got-up almanack."—*Cheltenham Free Press*.

"In short, the advocate of complete suffrage is here furnished with all the information relative to its general organisation, its plan of operation, its use of the press, and other similar matters that he would require to know."—*Aylesbury News*.

"Its low price, neat form, and well arranged compendium of facts, might justly entitle it to the appellation of Every Man's Almanack. Every page and every line is valuable; and we regard it as a great auxiliary in the grand end which every real philanthropist has in view—the destruction of monopoly, and the construction on its ruins of an age of virtue."—*Blackburn Mercury*.

"Its staple qualities, as a mere almanack, and the style in which it is got up, place it on a level with our best publications of the same description; while, to the complete suffragist, it presents an admirable compendium of information on the chief points connected with the progress, motives, and ends of the suffrage movement."—*Macclesfield Chronicle*.

"This is an almanack published under the direction of the National Complete Suffrage Union, and contains much information upon the suffrage question. The inquiry of our present mode of taxation is clearly exhibited, and traced to the fact that the people at large have had little or no control over their legislators."—*Dorset Chronicle*.

"This almanack is compiled and composed under the sanction of the National Complete Suffrage Union, and is used as a vehicle to diffuse the views of that body. It is neatly got up, is sold at a low price, and contains a large amount of letter-press of a political nature. Much of the information, too, which is judiciously arranged, is of a business-like and useful character."—*Bristol Mercury*.

"The 'Complete Suffrage Almanack' is carefully compiled, with an abundant supply of useful information, including what is generally required in such works. \* \* \* This almanack will be valued by many persons besides professed complete suffragists."—*Essex and Herts Mercury*.

"It contains a mass of information that proves—first that a thorough reform is imperatively called for in high quarters; and secondly, that a good beginning has been made of the good work—that a systematic organisation has been commenced for the purpose of clearing out the Augean stable."—*Bradford Observer*.

"This is a neat, cheap, and well arranged almanack; and, besides the usual contents of similar works, contains a mass of important information on the great political questions of the day: the article on the state of the representation is alone worth the price of this really valuable almanack."—*Nottingham Mercury*.

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"Now is the season of new almanacks. Among the neatest and cheapest of these is the 'Complete Suffrage Almanack,' published by Davis and Hasler, of Fleet street."—*Gateshead Observer*.

London: DAVIS and HASLER, 4, Crane court, Fleet street. W. TAIT, Edinburgh; and to be had of all Booksellers.

## THE NEW MAGAZINE.

UNDER THE SANCTION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

**THE COMMITTEE** is at length able to meet the wishes of numerous brethren in all parts of the country, by announcing the appearance, on the 1st of January, 1844, of the long-desired cheap and popular denominational Magazine.

The following resolution, moved by Rev. J. A. JAMES, and seconded by Dr VAUGHAN, was unanimously adopted at the recent meeting of the Union at Leeds:—

"That upon the report now presented by the Secretaries, of the present position of the proposal for a new Magazine, this meeting most respectfully and affectionately requests the Rev. Dr Campbell to edit the projected periodical in connexion with the Congregational Union of England and Wales—the meeting according to the views of Dr Campbell, as now reported, in respect to the price and size to be adopted for the Magazine; and entertaining sanguine hopes of its extensive success and usefulness, under the direction of so accomplished and indefatigable an editor."

To the wishes of his brethren, thus expressed, Dr Campbell has yielded. Pressed by numerous pastoral avocations, addicted to important literary pursuits—he adds to his labours, and turns aside from some favourite efforts, to serve the churches in an undertaking which presents to his far-seeing mind a prospect of incalculable usefulness—if the brethren will but support and second his exertions. Whether they will do this, Dr Campbell will test by the trial of a year. Dr Campbell's name is a guarantee to the churches of the vigorous and comprehensive views, of the skilful, vigilant, and untiring zeal with which the Work will be conducted: for having undertaken this Work, he enters on it with full purpose, to do in this as in everything he undertakes—his utmost.

"The *Christian Witness*, published under the sanction of the Congregational Union of England and Wales," is intended to be what its name imports—a decided testimony, by the Congregational churches, to primitive and apostolic Christianity, conducted in the genuine Christian spirit—calm, firm, earnest—in which the love of man is blended with the love of the truth, and the fear of man is vanquished by the fear of God. Pastors, deacons, members, and friends of the Congregational churches of England and Wales, now is your zeal for your principles to be tested! The committee of the Union will, in this matter, do its utmost to serve you; but success is not in the power of the committee, but in your power it is.

JOHN BLACKBURN,  
WM. STERN PALMER, } SECRETARIES.  
ALGERNON WELLS,

## THE EDITOR'S ADDRESS.

The Congregational Union of England and Wales has determined, if possible, to ascertain how far price regulates the circulation of Religious Periodical Literature. The existing Magazines, of the various denominations, are already not only good, but cheap—the cheapest, indeed, of all religious publications: but, notwithstanding their comparative cheapness, in no case is their circulation equal to their substantial merits, or half what is essential to the utmost benefit of their several communities; for the narrowest limit of a denominational magazine ought at least to be the limit of the families composing its members and adherents. There is no reason for its being in one house which does not equally require it to be in all houses. Whether it be viewed as a luxury or as a necessity, it ought to be within the reach, that it may be in the possession, of every Christian family, how straitened soever their circumstances.

Well, to effect this is the aim and object of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, who, in respect of price, have descended to the lowest point consistent with efficiency, and almost with existence; a point at which they could have rationally started only with the well-grounded expectation of a very extended sale. Let it be remembered that the Union is to furnish for *Threepence* a Magazine larger than most of the existing sixpenny magazines, which, however, as compared with the average price, per sheet, in the book market, are full fifty per cent cheaper than the run of works respectfully printed—a circumstance explained by the fact that, in the case of established magazines, the sale is certain, the return quick, and there is no expense for advertisement. The purchasers of the Union Magazine will, at the close of a year, possess an octavo volume, of nearly six hundred pages, containing more matter than four ordinary octavo volumes, costing half a guinea each. As much letter-press will be given in the one case for *THREE SHILLINGS* as in the other for *TWO GUINEAS*!

These are some of the considerations which induced the Editor to accept the office for which the Union has been pleased to select him. That selection by such a Body, for such a work, at such a time, to adopt the phrase of Johnson in a case somewhat analogous, he assuredly considers "the highest honour that literature has brought him." The position of those gentlemen, who occupy chairs in the Schools of the Prophets, and there mould the minds of the men who are to feed the flocks of God, he has ever deemed transcendently honourable; but still more important, influential, and responsible, does he deem the position of those who, through the periodical press, become the instructors, correctors, and guides of whole communities. He judges that if any vocation on earth can produce where it is not, or excite where it is, a vigilance that never sleeps—a perseverance that knows no weariness—an industry of which the smallest objects are not beneath the notice—an energy of which the greatest are not beyond the grasp—a zeal which no waters can quench—a consecration which leaves no gift or grace, no talent or acquirement, no power or passion, no element or emotion of mind or morals, unappropriated, in order to its worthy discharge, so as to honour and please the Head of the Church, and promote the health and welfare of its members—THIS, THIS IS THAT VOCATION.

But as price is always a comparative term, and must never be considered apart from quality, the character and object of the *Christian Witness* must next be specified. After a prolonged and careful survey of the whole field of periodical literature, both sacred and secular, from its commencement down to our own day, the Editor considers that the Magazine required, at the present time, for the Congregational churches of the British empire, is substantially the following; which he is also happy to state, so far as he can collect the views of the Committee of the Union, and through them of the Union itself, will fully meet the judgment both of the Executive and of the General Body.

## I. THEOLOGY AND BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION.

The paramount object of our Journal will be by every means to promote the work of God in the hearts of his children. With this view, particular attention will be constantly paid to the subject of Gospel truth, in its manifold and multifarious doctrinal, experimental, and practical bearings. To meet the case of domestic and others often detained at home from one or both services on Lord's Day, each number will contain a short Discourse, and also a Letter or Address to some particular class, in which especial regard will be had to the comfort and encouragement of old age, as also to the support and consolation of Christian suffering. In addition to these, there will be generally an illustration of some difficult, important, or interesting portion of Scripture. Into the pages of the *CHRISTIAN WITNESS*, however, no profound and perplexing theological controversy, no scholastic and elaborate criticism, will be admitted: all such matters, although in themselves, and in their own place, of the first importance, are both unnecessary to our object, which is popular effect and general usefulness, and incompatible with our limits, which will barely suffice for our legitimate materials; and we shall, therefore, leave them to the ample columns and the learned pen of our powerful friend and zealous coadjutor, the CONGREGATIONAL MAGAZINE.

## II. BIOGRAPHY AND ORBITUARY.

The cultivation of this department will be a particular object of our regard. Grace reigning in life! grace triumphing in death! Properly conducted, nothing conduces more to interest, impress, and edify all classes of believers. Especially is this the case in regard to death. Never are the riches and the power of sovereign grace displayed with greater beauty than at the close of a life of faith, when the countenance of God shines on the face of his departing child, and heaven, with all its glories, opens to receive him to its rest and bliss!

## III. ESSAYS, EXTRACTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE.

This department will bear a very comprehensive character.

Christian Missions, Church Polity, Church History, Popery and Puseyism, Memoirs of particular Churches and Institutions, Striking Events, illustrative of Divine Providence, Extracts from Works, new, rare, or remarkable, Anecdotes, Plans of Usefulness, Essays on Benefit and Friendly Societies—these and kindred subjects will all, in turn, find a place in the *Christian Witness*.

## IV. CHURCH AND STATE.

The separation of Church and State is the grand, the paramount question of our times. It involves the principal interests, both religious and political, of the British empire: and, unhappily, it most affects those interests on which, for England and all nations, most depends—public harmony and the diffusion of Education; the purity and spread, both at home and abroad, of true religion; the introduction of patriotic government; and the perfecting of a system of rational and just legislation. Language cannot express the importance of this separation! The human mind cannot even approximate the formation of a true estimate of the calamity and evil which flow from this most unscriptural and most baneful union! The minds of the whole of your community must, therefore, be thoroughly enlightened on this momentous subject; and, so far as action is required, those who know their duty must be stimulated to its devout, cordial, prompt, and vigorous performance. Casual reference, whether from the pulpit or from the press, can never produce more than general impressions, attended with neither light nor passion, which, among Dissenters, has been hitherto the source at once of their apathy and their impotence. To fire the mind, we must illumine the judgment and awaken the conscience. Lines must be upon line, line upon line; precept upon precept, precept upon precept; here a little, and there a little; and this will not be forgotten in the *Christian Witness*.

## V. ANALYTICAL REVIEWS AND SHORT CRITICISMS.

True criticism is less allied to art than to instinct; it depends on a right perception of the just, the true, and the beautiful. As founded in truth and nature, its principles are, therefore, as immutable as their basis, and its operations are regulated by fixed and settled laws. The prevalent and popular system of reviewing by the worldly press of this country is, to a vast extent, anything but criticism; it is essaying; it is dissertation; it may be, and it frequently is, erudite, able, and eloquent; but it is not criticism: the matter, the manner, the merits of the works, which supply the thesis, are oftentimes entirely forgotten; not a sentence is penned that can guide the public judgment. This vice of the great secular periodicals too frequently appears also even in the best of our religious journals. In the *Christian Witness* dissertation will give place to analysis. Where, as will be sometimes the case, expansion may be indispensable, we shall refer our readers to the *Congregational Magazine* and the *Eclectic Review*, which will be always able and ready to meet emergencies. Of one class of books the substance, the scope, and the aim will be carefully set forth, and a judgment pronounced on their merits and claims. Of another class only the subject and object will be stated, and the character critically described. By this process, notwithstanding its brevity, great things may still be achieved for literature, as much, indeed, as by reviews of greater length. All that is really judicial is generally contained in a few sentences. PUBLISHERS MAY RELY ON PROMPT NOTICES.

## VI. SABBATH AND BRITISH SCHOOLS.

These great modern Institutions claim the special regard of Periodical Writers. To meet their home wants, therefore, and to support their interests in the domestic circle, will be with the *Christian Witness* a uniform effort of laborious anxiety. To meet the necessities of the teachers, it will talk with them in dialogue, and teach them by essay and dissertation, concerning books and studies, the preparation of school addresses and village discourses, and everything adapted to promote their endeavours at self-improvement, and preparation for usefulness in the church of God. To meet the wants of the scholars, it will present them with matter adapted to fix their attention, promote reflection, and excite a thirst for inquiry into the Word of Inspiration, the works of God, and useful learning. To this end it will levy contributions on Civil and Natural History, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Oratory and Poetry, Voyages and Travels, and on the whole circle of Art, Science, and Literature. Remarkable Juvenile Biography and Obiituary, and whatever may tend to promote conversion to God, will not be forgotten.

## VII. RELIGIOUS AND PHILANTHROPIC INTELLIGENCE.

Here, while preference will be given to that which is Congregational, so far as space will permit, nothing will be overlooked in any section of the church of God which serves to display the working of his hand, and tends to support the faith and guide the prayers of his people.

## VIII. POETRY.

The choicest productions of our Christian poets will be summoned to aid in refining the taste, regaling the fancy, and purifying the heart of our readers.

## IX. BRITISH MISSIONS.

As Missionary Institutions are the glory of the churches, so every Denominational Periodical ought to endeavour, to the utmost of its power, to further their interests. With a view to this, a digest of the operations of these Missions, expressly prepared by the Secretaries of the several Societies, will form a part of every Number.

Such is an outline of the *Christian Witness*; and while it is obvious that such a variety of topics cannot always be all introduced in each successive number, such is the channel in which our matter will generally flow; and, taking the months of the year together, they will be found each to have received a proportionate share of attention.

Fathers and Brethren! The *Christian Witness* is before you. Does it meet your wishes? Will it suit your necessities? Will you adequately support it as a high and holy duty to your great, glorious, and Apostolic principles? Do you ask us to specify our view of adequate support? It may, perhaps, be prudent to abstain at present; but, considering the sale of other magazines, of twice, four times, and six times the price of the *Christian Witness*, and having regard to your numbers, a Monthly average of Fifty Thousand for the first year, although far, very far, indeed, from satisfactory, would not be altogether discouraging.

Bishops of the Churches! We look wistfully to you. Will you give us the aid of your counsel and your prayers? Will you also, according to your tastes, habits, and studies, regularly aid us in those departments which may be most agreeable to you? In particular, will you send us memoirs and obituaries of departed saints? And, finally, will you bring the subject of our Periodical before your people, from the pulpit on the Lord's day? Brethren, do this, and our Journal is safe. You have only to will that the *Christian Witness* shall become the most efficient magazine of its class that the world has yet seen, and—IT IS DONE!

Sunday School Teachers—beloved and honoured helpers in the work of the Lord! We once more, with joy and confidence, meet you! You are, in this enterprise, largely our hope! Will the Sunday School Teachers of England disappoint us? No! Never! Never! Never! You, above all mankind, are vitally interested in Cheap Periodical Literature. You have Cheap Bibles; now for Cheap Magazines! Will you yourselves subscribe? Will you recommend our Journal to your senior scholars and your friends? Will you prepare and transmit to us memoirs and obituaries of godly children, with facts and matters of all sorts that may be deserving of notice?

Visitors of Christian Instruction Societies! The *Christian Witness* will form a most valuable instrument for your service. It will furnish important reading for your families. If you will only try, you will find yourselves able to sell it by tens of thousands. The doing of this will diversify your labour of love, and form a new tie between you and the objects of your regard. In the first instance you may, perhaps, do well only to lend it in families that seem hopeful, and then request them to become subscribers.

Churches! Bishops! Deacons! The case is now left in your hands. Deal with it in a manner worthy of your fathers, your principles, and yourselves! Oh, forget not what is due, in this alarming day, to your country, your posterity, and your Lord!

N.B. THE PROFITS OF THIS WORK WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE BENEFIT OF AGED MINISTERS.

\* \* \* All communications to be addressed, post paid, to the Editor, at Mr Snow's, 35, Paternoster row; where, also, Advertisements will be received up to the 23rd of every month: after which, insertion cannot be insured.  
November 17, 1843.



**INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE.** New Series, price 3d. Edited by the Rev. JOSEPH FLETCHER. This periodical is designed for the YOUNG PEOPLE of the Independent denomination. The numbers for the coming year will be found of especial interest to Sabbath School Teachers.

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3. Marquis de Custine's Empire of the Czar.
4. The Book of Daniel.
5. Rev. Robert Hall—Grinfield and Green.
6. Life and Times of Reuchlin.
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"Mr Small has all the qualities of a real poet. His 'Scottish Martyrs' is a beautiful poem, which will live when the author has been called to sleep with his fathers."—*Evangelical Magazine*.

Edinburgh: W. WATTS. London: LONGMAN and Co., and NISBET and Co. Dublin: W. CURRY, jun., and Co.

To be published on the 30th instant.

**HOME MISSIONARY MAGAZINE FOR JANUARY.** Price 3d.

Being a RECORD of BRITISH MISSIONS, including the transactions of the Home Missionary, Irish Evangelical, and Colonial Missionary Societies.

CONTENTS:—

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4. Educational Statistics on Home Mission Stations.
5. Juvenile Department.
6. Intelligence from Home Missionary Stations, &c., &c.
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PERMANENT ENLARGEMENT OF THE "SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS' MAGAZINE," AND JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

**IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE INCREASED**

Demand for this long established MAGAZINE (the present being the 31st year of its publication), and with a view to provide additional space for the insertion of Sunday School Intelligence, and information respecting the great educational movements of the present day, the Conductors have resolved to ENLARGE the work permanently to the extent of ONE-FOURTH of additional matter, commencing with the 1st of January, 1844. There will be no alteration in the price, which will continue at SIXPENCE per Month.

The number for JANUARY will contain a PORTRAIT and MEMOIR of that long-tried friend of Sunday Schools, EDWARD BAINES, Esq., of Leeds.

Orders for the New Year are received by every Bookseller.

London: R. DAVIS, Publisher, 60, Paternoster row.

METROPOLITAN DRAPERS' ASSOCIATION.

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**THE PRIZE ESSAY ON THE EVILS OF THE LATE HOURS OF BUSINESS, &c.** By THOMAS DAVIES. With a Preface by the Hon. and Rev. BAPTIST W. NOEL, M.A. Price Sixpence and One Shilling.

"This essay, which has obtained the prize proposed by the Metropolitan Drapers' association, will, I trust, be read extensively by persons of all classes. Short, simple, and calm, exaggerating no grievance, and indulging in no invective, it yet unfolds a great amount of human suffering, which may easily be removed, if those who become acquainted with its existence will only use their influence for that purpose."—*Preface*.

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TO THE BAPTISTS.

**BESIDES** the Addition of a FOURTH HALF-SHEET, the PRIMITIVE CHURCH MAGAZINE, will contain, from the 1st of January, 1843, the "Baptist Missionary Herald and Irish Chronicle," and will consist of Fifty-two Pages Octavo; price FOURPENCE. The January number will be embellished with a Portrait of the late Mr Joseph Ivimey of Eagle street, London. Communications to be addressed to the publishers,

Messrs G. and J. DYER, 24, Paternoster row.

**ENLARGEMENT of the GARDENERS' CHRONICLE,** edited by Dr LINDLEY.—On and after the 6th of January, THE GARDENERS' CHRONICLE WILL BE INCREASED IN SIZE ONE-HALF, THE PRICE REMAINING THE SAME, 6d. each, stamped, to go free by post. A Prospectus, with List of Contributors, may be had on application, or by letter, at the Office of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, 3, Charles street, Covent garden, London.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.

**AT a MEETING of GENTLEMEN, Ministers** and others, chiefly resident in the Midland Counties, convened by Circular, and held at the TOWN HALL LIBRARY, LEICESTER, on Thursday, December 7, 1843, Dr COX of Hackney in the Chair, the following Resolutions were unanimously passed:—

Moved by the Rev. W. ROBINSON, of Kettering; seconded by the Rev. J. BROWN, of Northampton—

"That this meeting, impressed with the belief that the principle of national establishments for the maintenance of religion is essentially anti-christian and unjust, derogatory to the sovereign claims of the great Head of the church, and subversive of the indefeasible rights of man—that the practical working of this principle in Great Britain and Ireland is productive of numerous and most deplorable evils, spiritual, moral, political, and social—that strenuous and systematic efforts are now being made to extend the range, and to augment the efficiency, of this principle, both at home and in our colonies—that the introduction to parliament last session of the Factories Education bill, by the Secretary of State for the Home department, affords sufficient evidence that the existing measure of religious liberty enjoyed in this kingdom is, during the continuance of the compulsory system, unsafe—and that the present juncture of events distinctly and loudly calls upon the friends of the voluntary principle cordially to unite, and earnestly to labour, in the use of all peaceable and Christian means to accomplish, as speedily as possible, a separation of the church from the state—deem it expedient that a conference of delegates be convened, representing all persons in these realms who repudiate the principle of a religious establishment, and who are of opinion that this is a suitable method of commencing a serious movement against it; and this meeting do hereby pledge themselves to use their best exertions to secure the assembling of such conference, at the place and time which may hereafter appear most nearly to accord with general convenience, and with the demand of contingent events."

Moved by the Rev. J. GILBERT, of Nottingham; seconded by the Rev. J. P. MURSELL, of Leicester—

"That, with a view to avail themselves as widely as possible, for the foregoing purpose, of the intelligence and experience of all parties friendly to the maintenance of religion by voluntary means alone, this meeting earnestly invite the communication, between this date and the 1st of February, 1844, to the secretary of the provisional committee presently to be appointed, of plans for constituting a convention such as shall appear likely to combine, with freedom from all sectarian preference and perfect ease of action, the election of delegates: able and willing to promote the object in view; accompanied with suggestions as to the best time and place at which such convention shall be summoned to meet."

Moved by the Rev. J. SIBREE of Coventry, seconded by the Rev. JAS EDWARDS of Nottingham—

"That Dr Cox, Dr Price, Rev. J. P. Mursell, C. R. Edmonds, Esq., and Mr E. Miall, be requested to prepare a list of gentlemen, who shall be solicited to constitute a general provisional committee, and to submit it for adoption to an adjourned meeting."

The meeting then adjourned until the evening. At its re-assembling, Dr Cox having resumed the chair, the committee presented the list they had drawn up in the interval, containing about eighty (since increased to a hundred and twenty) names of gentlemen resident in all parts of the country, and it was

Moved by Mr C. BILSON, and seconded by Mr BEDFORDS—

"That the list now presented to this meeting, of gentlemen deemed eligible to constitute a general provisional committee, with power to add to their number, be adopted."

Moved by the Rev. J. P. MURSELL, seconded by Rev. JAS EDWARDS—

"That Dr Cox be requested to act as secretary to the general provisional committee, and that Dr Price and Mr E. Miall be associated with him as a sub-committee to take immediate steps for the completion and publication of the list now handed in and agreed to."

Moved by Dr PRICE, seconded by the Rev. J. GOADBY of Leicester—

"That it be an instruction to the provisional secretary, in communicating with the gentlemen named, to inform them that, when the general committee is constituted, a list of the same will be forwarded to each member for him to nominate such as he may desire to form the executive committee."

Moved by the Rev. T. STEVENSON, of Leicester; seconded by the Rev. J. GILBERT—

"That, because the expense of summoning a convention and preparing for the business of it must necessarily be considerable, and being convinced that many individuals in different parts of the country, unable to take an active part in securing it, would be glad to contribute pecuniarily to its success, this meeting respectfully request such friends to send in donations to the provisional secretary, upon the understanding that a full account of the expenditure of such sums will be handed in to the convention on its assembling."

Moved by Mr HORSEPOOL, seconded by Mr JOHN AUSTIN—

"That the foregoing resolutions be advertised in the *Nonconformist*, the *Patriot*, the *Inquirer*, and the *Wesleyan Chronicle*, and in such other publications as the sub-committee may deem expedient."

F. A. COX, Chairman.

**SILVER SUPERSEDED,** and those corrosive

and injurious metals called Nickel and German Silver, supplanted by the introduction of a new, and perfectly matchless ALBATA PLATE. C. WATSON, (late ALDERMAN,) 41, and 42, BARBICAN, aided by a person of Science in the amalgamation of Metals, has succeeded in bringing to Public notice the most beautiful article ever yet offered; possessing all the richness of Silver in appearance—with all its durability and hardness—with its perfect sweetness in use—undergoing as it does a chemical process, by which all that is noxious in mixed metals is entirely extracted—resisting all acids—may be cleaned as silver, and is Manufactured into every Article for the Table and Sideboard.

Table Spoons, per dozen ..	16 6	Sauce Ladles ..	1 9
Dessert ditto, per dozen ..	12 6	Tea Spoons, per dozen ..	5 6
Soup Ladles ..	6 6	Gravy Spoons ..	3 6

C. Watson begs the public will understand that this Metal is peculiarly his own, and that silver is not more different from gold than his metal is from all others; the public will therefore have no difficulty in discovering the animus which directs the virulent attacks made against him, by a party who is daily suffering from the unparalleled success which has marked the progress of his new Plate since its introduction. C. W. unlike this party courts comparison, feeling confident that the result will establish its pre-eminence. 41 and 42, Barbican; and at 16, Norton Folgate.

**WANTED.—A MASTER** for a BRITISH SCHOOL, to be opened in connexion with an Independent church, in a populous district, at the West end of London. Salary guaranteed, 80l. per annum. Application to be made in writing (post paid) to Mr Moore, 26, Rathbone place, on or before 3d Jan. 1844.

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**THIS LIBRARY** comprises a GOOD SELECTION OF STANDARD WORKS, with every new work of interest, in History, Philosophy, and General Literature; and all the English and American Reviews, the Monthly Magazines, &c. Newspapers regularly supplied. Stationery of every description. A good assortment of Juvenile books, and other works adapted for presents. Pocket Books, Almanacks, and Diaries for 1844.

LECTURES ON ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

**THE SEVENTH LECTURE** will be delivered. on TUESDAY EVENING NEXT, January 2nd, 1844, by the Rev. G. ROSE, of Jamaica row chapel, Bermondsey.

Subject:—"Establishments obstructive to the Extension of Christianity."

To commence at half-past seven o'clock.

ACADEMICAL DEGREES.—MINISTERS,

LECTURERS, or others engaged in Scientific or Literary pursuits, may, if properly qualified, obtain, through the assistance of the Advertiser, a University Degree. Address, pre-paid, to M. D., at Messrs Nocks, Booksellers, 15, Tottenham court, New road.

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

NEW MISSION SHIP.

**APPEALS** explanatory of the Object, Cards for Collectors, and the Tract entitled "A Conversation between a Teacher and his Class," may be had gratuitously, on application (personal or by letter) to the Secretaries, Mission house, Blomfield street, Finsbury.

The Directors are much gratified by the zeal with which the juvenile friends are responding to the appeal, and beg to state that where it may not be convenient to complete or remit the amount raised by the 8th of January, they will cheerfully keep the account open till the 20th.

ARTHUR TIDMAN, } Secretaries.  
JOS JOHN FREEMAN, }  
JOHN ARUNDEL, }

THE DISSENTERS' and GENERAL LIFE

and FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY. Instituted 1837. Empowered by Special Act of Parliament, 3 Vic. c. 20. 62, King William street, London bridge, London; 21, St David street, Edinburgh; 6, King street, Queen square, Bristol; and St Andrew's hill Plain, Norwich. Capital, One Million.

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On the return of the Christmas Quarter the Directors beg to remind their friends and the public, that in the Fire Department they receive risks of all descriptions, including chapels, school rooms, mills, goods, and shipping in dock, farming stock, &c., at the same reduced rates as other respectable companies, and make no charge for Fire Policies transferred from other offices. In the Life Department they continue to transact all business relating to life assurances, annuities, and family endowments, upon the most liberal terms consistent with sound principles and public security.

Loans also are granted, on equitable terms, to Life Assurers, on life interests or satisfactory personal securities. Particulars, as to all departments, may be obtained from the principal offices in London, Edinburgh, Bristol, and Norwich; and from the several agents throughout England, Scotland, and Wales; and to all Agents and Solicitors, Auctioneers and Surveyors, liberal allowances will be made.

By order of the Directors.

THOMAS PRICE, Secretary.

BETTS'S PATENT BRANDY.

**NOTWITHSTANDING** the publicity for many years past given to the superiority of BETTS'S PATENT FRENCH DISTILLED BRANDY over every other Spirit, British or Foreign, it is yet but partially known; J. T. BETTS and Co. therefore, feel it a duty they owe to the Public and themselves, to invite a comparison between the Patent and the French Brandy, until every Family in the kingdom, in which Brandy is consumed, have made trial of their Patent Brandy—and, consequently, discontinued the use of the Foreign Article. Their respective merits are fairly developed in the following Testimonials, to which they again beg to refer.

EXTRACTS FROM TESTIMONIALS.

"I do not hesitate to express my conviction that your Patent Brandy is fully as free from every thing injurious to health, and contains as pure a spirit, as the best varieties of Foreign Brandy."

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"Professor of Chemistry in the University of London."

"John T. Betts, Esq."

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It is this perfect freedom from the above objectionable qualities, and its agreeable similarity in flavour to the finest samples of Cognac Brandy, that constitute the peculiar value of the Patent Brandy.

J. T. BETTS and Co. are, at length enabled to give a distinct assurance that arrangements will be completed in the course of the present month, which will afford an unfailing protection to purchasers against the continuance of those frauds, from which they have hitherto so extensively suffered; as each bottle will be secured by a PATENT METALLIC CAPSULE, or covering for the cork, of solid metal, with their name, address, and the words "BETTS'S PATENT BRANDY" embossed upon it; the forgery of which subjects the guilty party to a Penalty of Fifty Pounds for every offence.

This valuable Spirit is manufactured only at the Distillery, No. 7, Smithfield Bars, leading to St John Street; where it may be obtained, either pale or coloured, in quantities not less than Two Gallons, at Eighteen Shillings per Gallon, for Cash on delivery.

Printed and Published at the Office, at No 4, Crane Court, Fleet Street, near Fetter Lane, in the City of London, by JOHN HENRY DAVIS, of No. 76, York Road, Lambeth, in the county of Surrey, on WEDNESDAY, 27th of DECEMBER, 1843.



